

The National Top tips. runners and riders

The invasion of the baby-faced clones

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STARTING TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES **Anyone Can Cook** Frances Bissell on scrambled eggs



KIIMES

When journalists go to war media times pages 38-41 FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 26

Nato clears highway in the sky to get US prisoners out of Serbia

Cypriot leader flies out on mercy mission

MICHAEL EVANS, ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

NATO cleared a "safe corridor" through its bombardment last night in the hope that the Cypriot mission to Belgrade would win the release of the three captured American soldiers.

At the same time, President Yeltsin announced in Moscow that he was working on a new peace initiative to end the Kosovo crisis, and Belgrade dairned that peace had been restored to the province.

The claim was dismissed by Nato, which underlined its determination to maintain the bombing campaign by announcing that Yugoslav television and radio stations were be targeted to try and stop the flow of propaganda.

The proposed mission to release the three American soldiers went ahead after Spyros Kyprianou, Speaker of the

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Cypriot Parliament, was guaranteed safe passage for his flight to Belgrade in spite of the continuing bombing sor-ties over Yugoslavia.

The Pentagon promised him an "air corridor", but William Cohen, the US Defence Secrerary, said there would be no halt in the airstrikes throughed the airspace so they can go," Kenneth Bacon, the Bacon they can gon spokesman said before Mr Kyprianou flew from Ath-

Mr Kyprianou, a former President of Cyprus, hopes to see President Milosevic today. but there were confusing reports over whether the Yugoslav leader had any intention of releasing the Americans. The most extreme politicians in Belgrade said they would be

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Mr Kyprianou said that he had received assurances that the three soldiers would be released, but the Greek Air Force transport plane that took him to Belgrade was ordered back to its base at Athens, thwarting plans for the aircraft to wait at Belgrade to fly the soldiers to Cyprus for a formal handover at Larnaca

Mr Yeltsin's latest move to find a peace formula was announced as he prepared to meet Igor Sergeyev, the Defence Minister, and as the Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov praised France for backing the idea of adapting the Rambouillet accord to make it acceptable to the Serbs.

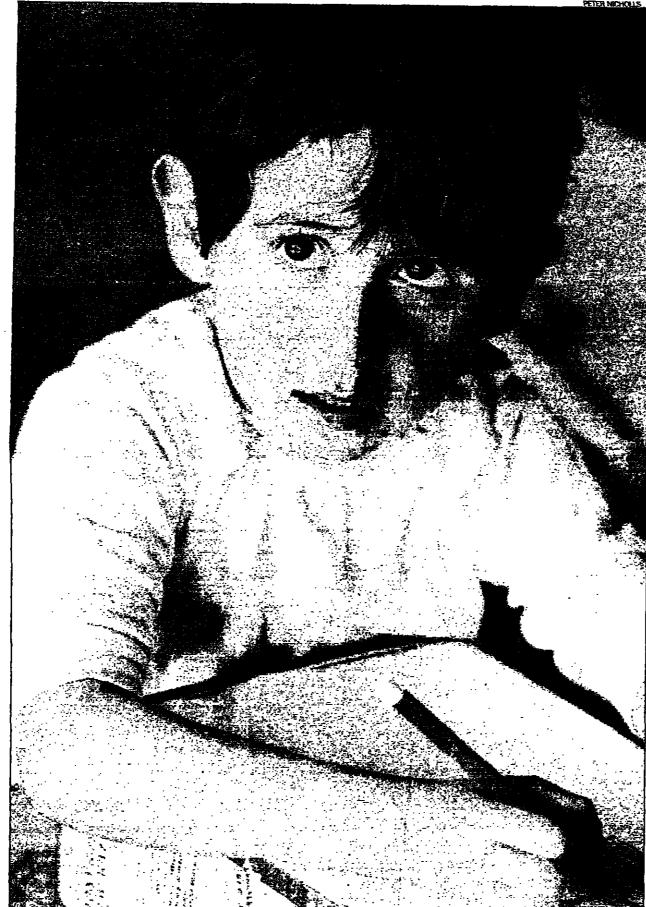
As Nato continued with another night of bombing, the alliance announced that it was sending 8,000 troops to Albania to help with the refugee crisis, but officials continued to deny that they intended to send ground forces into Kosovo unless there was a peace

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, said: "What the international community is not prepared to do at this moment is to wage war on Serbian territory. That is not our objective. Our objective is only to weaken Milosevic's regime and weaken his military capac-

As if in anticipation of a Nato ground offensive. Yugoslav forces began laying mines along the border with Albania and there were reports that tanks and guns were also being moved up to the frontier. seen digging in to form defensive positions close to the bor-

European Union foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, declared that there was no alternative to the use of force to compel Belgrade to meet the demands set by the al-

"The EU will not accept the success of a policy of deportanon and destruction of a peo-Continued on page 5, col 1



Jehona Aliu is an old hand at the Brazde refugee camp, cheering other children who have lost their parents

Armchair punters' weekend bonanza

By Michael Horsnell and Susie Steiner

THE nation's sofas are set to groan under the heavy weight of the male population this weekend as an unprecedented number of top sporting compe-

ninons coincide. Sporting anoraks could be trapped in a remote-control quandry as they frantically flick from the Grand National to the FA and Scottish Cup semi-finals and on to the Brazilian Grand Prix. As if that weren't enough, they are to be further torn by golf, rugby. cricket and boxing.

On a weekend when everyone will miss out on something through sheer lack of small screens, one party is rubbing its hands with glee. Bookmakers expect to take a record 5100 million in bets - dwarfing National Lottery sales which average a mere £60 mil-

lion each Saturday.
The Grand National will command the lion's share of wagers, attracting an estimated £70 million. But Sean Boyce, spokesman for Ladbrokes, said: "This year the sporting constellation has come into alignment for us at exactly the right time. I suppose you could describe it as a kind of punting supernova."

Both Ladbrokes and William Hill will be opening their shops for extra hours and Hill's spokesman Graham Sharpe said: "If you can't find a sporting event to bet on this weekend you never will. If you aren't moved by the opportunities, then stick to the Lottery because you have no soul."

The Grand National at Aintree will compete for the nation's attention against France vs Scotland in the Five Nations Rugby at Paris.

The US Masters in Augusta will vie for airtime against Prince Nascem's fight with Paul Ingle, while the Celtic v Dundee Scottish FA Cup semifinal kicks off.

Sunday will be more hectic still. Football leads the field with the FA Cup semi-final between Manchester United and



What odds will you give on my husband not moving from the television all weekend?

Arsenal, followed by Newcastle v Spurs. But both will clash with England's one-day cricket match against India.

Later, England plays Wales at Wembly in the Five Nations Rugby tournament, risking a clash with the Brazilian Grand Prix which kicks off at 6pm. Choosing the grand prix, however, means forgoing the other Scottish FA Cup semi-final between St Johnstone and

Or digging the garden. Punters failed, page 15

Sport, pages 45-52

Banks put savers first after rate cut

By Alasdair Murray and Susan Emmett

HOMEOWNERS have been left in the dark as to whether they will enjoy another reduction in their mortgage pay-ments after big lenders failed to follow the Bank of England in cutting interest rates yesterday.

The Bank reduced rates by a quarter point to 5.25 per cent. But banks and building societies said they would not cut their mortgage rates immedi-ately because they needed to consider the needs of Britain's 30 million savers as well as the 10 million homeowners.

While homeowners have enjoyed a sharp fall in mortgage costs, savers - especially pensioners - have seen their income plummet, and many instant access accounts pay rates that are lower than inflation.

The only change in mortgage rates came from Virgin Direct, which announced an immediate cut on its One account rate to 6.45 per cent. But it left the rates on its savings account at 5.75 per cent.

The City, which believes that the Bank has just about finished its cutting spree, gave yesterday's reduction only a muted welcome. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares ended this week's record breaking run to close down 35.3 at 6437.9. The pound, however, strengthened on optimism that the British economy is

heading for a "soft landing". Industry and the unions continued to plead for dramatical lower rates, insisting that the Bank had not done enough to help the manufacturing

Dr Ian Peters, deputy-director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The cut is helpful, but insufficient to put the economy firmly back on track for recovery. Manufacturing industry in particular will give a cautious welcome to this cautious cut and seek for the bank of go further at its May meeting."

Double boost, page 27

Jehona is five. She turned her back for a moment. Her family vanished

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL AT BRAZDE CAMP

ONE girl sits alone, un-claimed, in the lost children tent established by British soldiers at the vast Brazde refugee camp. Forced from her home in Ferizaj and herded on a train to the border by Serbian forces, Jehona Aliu, five, was separated from her family when she disappeared behind a tree to relieve herself. When she emerged, her mother, two sisters, and two brothers were nowhere to be seen.

For three days, Jehona has sat at Brazde. She has no idea where, or even in which country, her family are, and aid agencies are equally in the dark. Her cheerfulness and courage, however, have endeared her to the soldiers trying to bring order to this shifting mass of humanity.

dren base to help those who become confused in the rows and rows of identical white tents. and have reunited more than 40 with their parents. But not Jehona, who now comforts the newer arrivals as she sits on a makeshift bed drawing felt-tip pictures of her parents.

She appears oblivious to the noise of trucks and helicopters delivering supplies around her. Wearing a white T-shirt, blue trousers and white Barbie sandals, she seems happy surrounded by fluffy elephants and centipedes.

"My dad told us 'Go, go, there are bombs, you are go-ing to be killed and sent us away," she said through an interpreter. "I was with my mummy, brothers and sisters on the train. I wanted to go to the toilet and I went behind the trees because I did not want people to see me with my clothes off. When I went back I didn't find my mother. Some girl put me in a car and I do not know how I got here."

She smiles and says she likes the British soldiers because they give her chocolates. fruit juice, cans of food and clothes. They, too, are full of er children come here she walks over, offers them sweets and says 'Don't cry, I'm sad too because I've lost my parents, but I'm not crying," said Captain Bill Soper."I would do anything to trace Jehona's par-ents. She's as bright as a button, has been able to give us all their names and even her home relephone number. We will find them."



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Hague's aide puts truckers in a spin

WILLIAM HAGUE made a pre-emptive strike in the Newark by-election campaign yesterday but had to share star billing with the Tories' first woman communications chief. Amanda Platell, the former Fleet Street Editor, appeared at Mr Hague's side in public for the first time since her surprise appointment as head of news and media.

The by-election, to be held next month, follows the conviction of the Labour MP Fiona Jones for falsifying her election expenses declaration. She was expelled from the House of Commons, leading to a by-election the Tories have to win it Mr Hague is to avoid another welter of speculation about his leadership of the Conservative Party.

First on the agenda for the four-hour visit was a delegation of road hauliers objecting to the 10 per cent increase in diesel duty. Miss Platell. 41. described as Mr Hague's best photo-opportunity in the headlines that accompanied her appointment, was an instant hit. "Who are you? Are you Mr Hague's secretary?" one of the truckers asked. Before Miss Platell could flash one of her well-honed smiles, another driver hastily intervened, "No. it's the woman who was in the papers. That spin-doctor." A few moments later Miss Platell had secured the prom-



Andrew Pierce, back at The Times after a short absence and back on the campaign trail, joined William Hague as the Tory leader stole a march on the other parties

ise, at least from the assembled overalls, that that they would be voting Conservative in the by-election. "Pity you're not standing," one added for good measure.

From there it was on to a charity-run village playgroup threatened by the minimum wage. The running costs of the Second Calverton Pre-School Playgroup, formed in 1971, have soared by £5,000 a year. Staff have offered to sacrifice their holiday pay, but the group will be closed within five months unless alternative money is found.

Mr. Hampa was in his elements threatened to the player was in his elements.

Mr Hague was in his element. Ignoring the old adage that politicians should steer clear of animals and babies, he stepped straight into the sandpit and pushed children down the slide under the watchful eye of Miss Platell.

While staying in the back-

ground, talking to the parents, she nevertheless kept an eye on the most photogenic children for the photographers. Within 30 minutes the Tory roadshow, complete with Sebastian Coe. Mr Hague's chief of staff, had swept on to another appointment guaranteed to ensure maximum publicity: the local newspaper offices iust before deadline. Only a calamitous wedding ceremony in which the bridegroom hobbled down the aisle in a plaster cast, with a bridesmaid in a similar condition. denied him the main headline.

New Labour's spin-doctors had obviously been at work again, Miss Platell was heard to mutter. However, The William and Amanda Roadshow left wreathed in smiles, with more cameras to record the event. It is a show that could run and run.



Keeping an eye on the main chance: Amanda Platell on the by-election trail yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Animal exporters face tougher rules

The live export of animals to the Continent is to be subject to tighter controls. The Ministry of Agriculture is to send its own vets to check animal welfare, rather than exporters choosing and paying for their own vet. Vets must ensure that animals are fit for travel and that exporters are abiding by rules on rest periods and space.

Elliot Morley, Minister for Farm Animal Welfare, said:
"The Government cannot lawfully ban the live export trade
because of EU single market rules. But the Government is
committed to ensuring the highest possible standards."
However, animal welfare groups expressed concern that
the rules would not come into force before the the summer
neak of the trade.

Salmon fishing curbed

New bylaws to conserve spring salmon stocks in England and Wales have been approved by the Government. Anglers will be required to release all salmon they catch before June 16. Netsmen fishing in estuaries and coastal waters will have a start date of June 1. However, the Welsh Office said an exception will be made for the coracle net fisheries on the River Towy in South Wales because of their "unique cultural and historical significance".

'Schools hoard £500m'

Head teachers are hoarding £500 million under the Local Management of Schools policy inherited from the last Government, while experienced teachers are being sacked to cut budgets, the conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers was told. The union called on the Government to rethink the policy, which it blames for the sacking of 8,500 teachers in the first half of this decade.

Refugee detained

José Da Conceição. 32. a refugee from Angola, who admitted the manslaughter of David Phillips, 42, three days after escaping from a secure psychiatric unit in West London, was ordered to be detained under the Mental Health Act by the Old Bailey. He pleaded guilty on the ground of diminished responsibility. Da Conceição, a paranoid schizophrenic, stabbed Mr Phillips with a carving knife after discovering that his victim had been given his old room.

Couple were murdered

A couple whose bodies were found in the living room of their flat in Barrow-in-Furness. Cumbria, were murdered, police said yesterday. The bodies of Derek McKell, 33, and his girlfriend Lorraine Richardson, 46, were discovered by Mr McKell's mother on Wednesday. Detectives think the unemployed couple may have known their killer as there were no signs of forced entry and nothing appeared to have been stolen from the flat.

Rugby runaway hunt

Half of the players on an African rugby team who have gone missing in Britain are now officially listed as illegal immigrants. A dozen players from the Ivory Coast under-19s, who went missing in west Wales after their team finished 26th of 32 participating in a World Cup rugby contest, failed to join their team-mates flying out of Gatwick Airport yesterday. Police and immigration officials have been searching for the five forwards and seven backs.

Police follow up programme on Lawrence five

POLICE investigating the murder of Stephen Lawrence were following up new lines of inquiry last night after the five suspects broke their public si-

lence about the killing.

One of them. David Norris, said he was in the area on the night of the murder. staying at his girlfriend's house. Previously he had refused to give any details of his whereabouts. Two others. Neil and Jamie Acourt, said that they carried knives before Stephen was stabbed to death in

Eltham, southeast London, in 1993. The disclosures came in interviews Michael Harvey reports on the TV interviews with suspects

with the men on Tonight, a new ITV current-affairs programme. Mr Norris, 22, who lives with his mother in Chislehurst, three miles from the scene of the murder, told the interviewer Martin Bashir that he was at his then girlfriend's house about halfa-mile from Well Hall Road, where Stephen was stabbed by a bus stop. Mr Norris is one of two of the men who in theory could still be tried for the murder after the original case

against him and Neil Acourt was thrown out by a magistrate for lack of evidence. Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson were acquitted at the Old Bailey two years ago after a private prosecution by the Lawrence family failed. They cannot be tried again for the same crime.

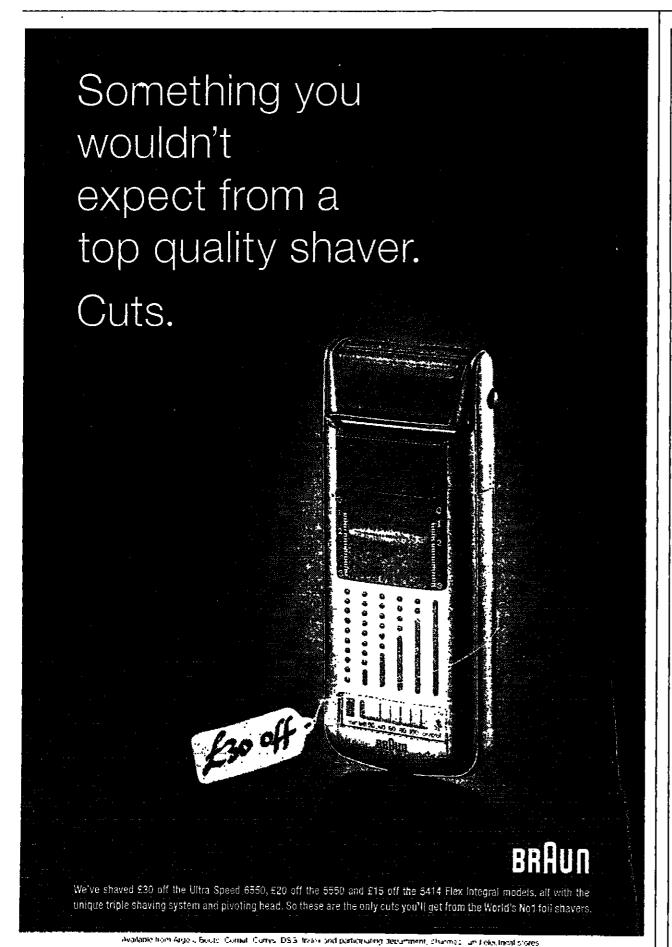
Bashir interviewed the five men separately at a neutral location. Neil and Jamie Acourt said that they were at home together on the night of the

murder, playing computer games with their mother as a witness. They give conflicting stories about when they had heard about the murder. Jamie Acourt, 22, said he did not hear about it until the next day while Neil, 23, said he heard about it that night from someone who called at their

Gary Dobson, 23, said that he was out with his family having dinner and then later visited the Acourts at

their home a short distance from the murder scene. He also said that he heard about the murder that night from a third person. Luke Knight. 22, said he was at home in bed.

All five were asked directly for the first time: "Did you kill Stephen Lawrence?" All five protested their innocence. Mr Dobson said that the five were a group of "little bastards" on the estate, adding they were "rascals, loveable rogues". Neil Acourt accepted that he had a reputation: "If someone put trouble my way I would not stand for it, simple as that."



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Owen scores with £1m book deal

Publishers take a gamble on England star's

future, report Adrian Lee and Elizabeth Judge

MICHAEL OWEN has signed sport's most lucrative publishing deal: more than Il million for three books. The successful bidders ad-

mitted yesterday that they had taken a gamble on the enduring form, fitness and appeal of the Welching the teenage football prodigy. His third book - an autobiography - will not be published until after the 2002 World Cup, when he will be all of 22. The deal also shows remarkable faith in the England ream's ability to qualify for both the Euro 2000 champion-

> and the World Cup. Leading publishers had scrambled to sign Owen, the Liverpool striker. A spokeswoman for HarperCollins, which won the race, said yesterday: "He is quite simply the biggest sports star of the moment. He has a fantastic following and we believe he has (asting appeal."

thips, on the back of which the second book will be published.

Trade. The payments to Owen, who will be given "some help" in writing his life story, will be nhased over four years. Even f his career ends this week, he will receive the full amount. The fee is thought to be the largest paid to any teenage au-TO first thor. Few authors from any field can match it, although Jeffrey Archer received £22 miltion for a three-book deal.

11.2

- Pagg

Since the publication of Fever Pitch, by Nick Hornby, in 1993, there has been a surge in demand for sports books. Dayid Luxton, of the specialist bookshop Sports Pages, said: "People will buy a book about their favourite player irrespec-nic of how good it is. But the

best sellers are the ones with a decent story, like Addicted, by Tony Adams, which sold enormously." He thought the sum paid by

HarperCollins represented sound business sense and that Owen's autobiography would undoubtedly become a best seller. But he said of the growing trend among young sports stars to publish their life stories: "The readership is not stu- pid. They know that if they wait there must be more to

Michael Earley, the publishing director of Methuen, said: "Sports books are a theiring market, but this is a huge risk. You generally see them contracted for only one book. They must believe that he has ் a future.'

Owen's representatives approached several publishers after the World Cup, inviting them to pitch for the contract.



One for the book: Michael Owen, right, was on England duty with Alan Shearer, left, and David Seaman yesterday, showing off the new national strip at the NEC in Birmingham

HarperCollins has previously published autobiographies by Adams, the Arsenal defender and recovering alcoholic, lan Botham and Nigel Mansell. Adams's book is now the bestselling football autobiogra-

Owen's first book, on footsummer in conjunction with a six-part BBC television series. A scrapbook featuring his early life will be published next year, to be followed finally by the autobiography, in summer 2002. It leaves the way clear for part two of his life story to be published later, if his career continues to flourish.

Autobiographies by footballers are notoriously bland and . Owen yesterday did nothing to break the mould. He said:

"I'm very excited to be work-

The bestselling sports book is the autobiography of Dickie Bird, the cricket umpire, which sold 500,000 copies last year. However, it may well be overshadowed by the life story of Alex Ferguson, the Man-United manager, which is published later this year. He is said to have signed

richest sportsman.

ing with HarperCollins. It's a

great opportunity to pass on

the skills I've learnt to young

footballers everywhere and to

tell my own story."
The deal will boost the mil-

lionaire status of Owen, who

has a series of well-paid advertising contracts. According to one survey, he is Britain's 17th

'I hurled the clock against the wall. I was so gutted'

chat forums and many other sites relating to the Liverpool and

www.tin_it/rete/en/10/24230.html video of Michael Owen's

sensational goal against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup

by Tony Adams CollinsWillow

defender Arsenal charts descent into alcoredemption and how those key gibes hurt.
"So many carrots

were thrown at me that I could have opened a fruit and veg stall. One caught me on the ear Which was really swollen after the game."

Vinnie: The Autobiograpby

by Vinnie Jones Headline Book Publishing

Football's self-styled hard man proves that you don't have to be any

good to write a bestsell-

So I went straight back into the toilets taking the clock with me and hurled it against the back wall. It smashed to smithereens. I wasn't being a spoiled brat or any-

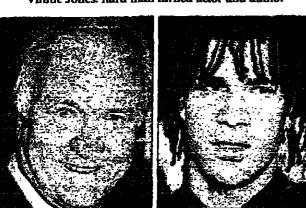
Harry Redknapp: An Autobiography CollinsWillow

thing. I was just so gut-

ted I had the hump."



Vinnie Jones: hard man turned actor and author



Masters of style: Ron Atkinson and Rund Gullit

his

Gazza, Eileen, Beck-

strange bonding ses-

sion with a BBC inter-

walked into the station

I saw Ray Stubbs. He

was just about to inter-

why none of it was

fault — and a

"Then, as I

has writing style simi- of the England coach. lar to Vinnie's.

"I was just like I always had been. Still getting the hump when we got beat and taking everything too personally."

Gienn Hoddie. My 1998 **World Cup Story** Andre Deutsch

West Ham manager Pre-sacking ramblings view me. We did not

say anything. We just embraced each other. For all the sadness, it was a wonderful mo-

Kevin Keegan: My Autobiography Little Brown

From Scunthorpe to Geordie icon, how he fell off his bike in Superstars and the secret of football's dodgiest hairdo: "Just before I left for Germany, a hairdresser friend remarked that a perm might suit me and that it would be easier to maintain after training and all the showers I took ... That hairstyle set a trend in football."

Raud Guillt: My Autobiography Century

ham, missed penalties Flamboyant exponent of sexy football is a turn-off in print, despite literary allusions:

"Well. as a young boy I used to like watching Scrooge, so we have looked at my Christmas past, my Christmas present and my Christmas future."

It's still football, after a fashion

By JOANNA BALE

AS Michael Owen, Alan Shearer and David Seaman modelied the new England kit yesterday, thousands of young fans screamed with excitement at seeing their heroes, but many parents silently grouned in anticipation at having to fork out another £50 for

Craig Winterborne, whose Joshua, aged 7, was sporting an old-style England shirt at the event at the Birmingham NEC, said: "Josh got this strip for Christmas but now it's obsolete. He's already asked for the new strip but I've told him that he can save up his pocket money because we can't afford it."

Richard Moore, of Umbro, manufacturer of the new kit under a £50 million sponsorship deal, defended its two-year lifespan after the unveiling for the BBC's Match of the Day show: It's now an industry norm for kits to be changed on a two-year cycle. We have to change them periodically to keep up with technological changes."
Although styled in a retro

1960s fashion with a simple round neck line, the new strip, according to Umbro, is the most technologically advanced ever. The shirt is made from Microfibre. which, says Umbro is "a bighly durable and synthetic material that is lightweight and soft to the touch". To give players the edge in numid conditions, "the process of moisture nanagement is helped by application of a Vapatech coating which draws moisture from the skin". The kit goes on sale on April 23, St George's Day.



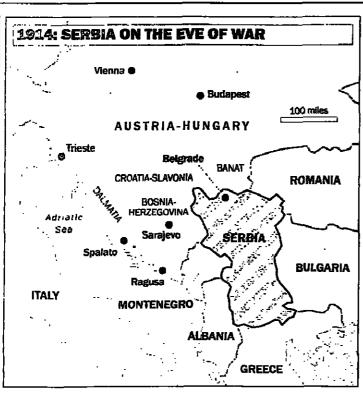
GUCCI

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A STATE OF THE STA

BALKANS WAR: POLITICS OF CONFLICT

Yugoslav borders have been shaped by the hand of history. From the turmoil of 1914 to present times, the region has been racked by rivalries



Serbia achieved independence in 1878. After the 1912 and 1913 Balkan wars Serbia occupied Kosovo, Macedonia and part of Thrace. The Austro-Hungarian Empire included Croatia, but after 1908 Austria also annexed Bosnia, causing lingering Serb resentment. In 1914 Gavrilo Princip, right, a Serb nationalist, sent shockwaves around the world when he assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, sparking the First World War.



Yugoslavia under Tito, right, had the same international boundaries as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, established after the First World War. Keeping the separate states or "republics" that existed in the region, Tito created another by separating Macedonia from southern Serbia. He also gave autonomous status to Vojvodina and Kosovo to reduce Serb influence in





Tito's Yugoslavia started to break up in 1991, with wars of independence in Slovenia and Croatia, which were recognised by the EU in 1991. Macedonia and Bosnia followed, but Montenegro remained with rump Yugoslavia. After Bosnia declared independence war broke out in 1992, lasting until 1995. The Muslim President Izetbegovic, right, led the fight for a united Bosnia against Serb separatists.



'Ethnic cleansing' plans laid years ago

THE discovery of a detailed Serb plan to drive ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo - devised by Belgrade long before Nato airstrikes began — shows that the blueprint for President Milosevic's ethnic cleansing was drawn up shortly before the Second World War by a Serb nationalist responsible for triggering the First.

The chilling document - codenamed The Horseshoe Plan — came to light last week when a copy was leaked to Joschka Fischer, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, by the government of an unidentified country bordering Serbia.

Le Monde reported yesterday. Dated February 20 and in Serbo-Croat, the substantial document, believed to have been stolen, shows Belgrade planned the deportation of ethnic Albanians, particularly those in Kosovo's urban centres, at least a month before the Nato bombing began.

The plan proves that the Serb actions were premeditated and not a reaction to the airstrikes, as claimed by Belgrade. It appears obvious that President Milosevic never had any intention of respecting the October 1998 peace agreement made with Richard Hol-

brooke, the American envoy, but was simply delaying allied airstrikes while he continued to manoeuvre Serb forces into position around Kosovo.

The document is significant. too, because of the written evidence it would provide against the Serb leader should he be brought before an international war crimes tribunal.

The German Government has confirmed that it is studying the document, but has yet to decide whether to make it public. "Operation Horseshoe began in Kosovo in November 1998 . . . It shows that the Yugoslav Army and police had

Milosevic expulsion policy drawn up before war, writes Susan Bell

drive people out of certain parts of Kosovo, from November until the Rambouillet negotiations began," Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, told Le Monde.

During the France peace talks, Serb repression in Kosovo was reduced. However, when the talks failed in February, ethnic cleansing was

The Horseshoe Plan has its

planned, and then started, to roots in a document written more than 60 years ago by Vaso Cubrilovic — a Serb academic who held the dubious distinction of being the youngest of the seven assassins responsible for the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914, triggering the First World War. Sentenced at the age of 17 to 16 years in prison for treason, Cubrilovic was released after the Austro-Hun-

1918. He became a distinguished historian and a professor of philosophy at the University of Belgrade before serving as a minister under President Tito. He died in 1990. when 94.

His pamphlet, The Expulsion of the Albanians by the Serbs, published in 1937, advocated "using the brute force of an organised state" to drive as many Arnaoutes [Albanians] as possible from Kosovo towards Albania and Turkey. The scorched-earth tactics of Mr Milosevic echo methods recommended by his mentor. who proposed "secretly burning down Albanian villages and city quarters".

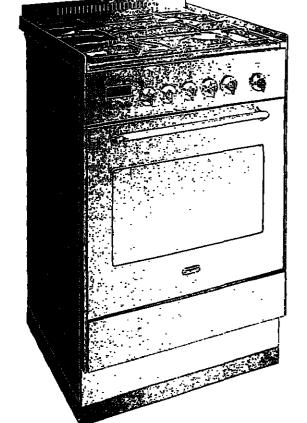
Cubrilovic's description of "the Albanian problem" has overtones of the run up to Hitler's Final Solution as he discusses the best way to systematically persecute ethnic Albanians to make it "intolerable" for them to remain in Kosovo. He advocates crushing any local uprisings, but gives a warning against using the Yugoslav Army, preferring gangs (one is immediately reminded of Milosevic's feared warlord Arkan) and forces from neighbouring states, (again, one thinks of the Macedonian

30,000 refugees from a makeshift camp) who must "secretly

be given support". The Horseshoe Plan at pears to have dispelled any lingering pacifist doubts among Western leaders, many of whom seemed unable to believe, despite the precedent of Bosnia, that at the end of the 20th century a European leader would carry out such a plan using methods that differ very little from those outlined before the Second World War.

Simon Jenkins, page 22

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Supporters deny Rugova has 'sold out' to Milosevic

AIDES to Ibrahim Rugova. banian "president", yesterday denied that he had cut a deal with President Milosevic in which the Belgrade regime might partition the province or at least keep it irrevocably within Serbia.

Having played second fid-dle to the more radical Kosovo Liberation Army through the Rambouillet peace talks, Mr Rugova is re-emerging as one of the few glimmers of hope that there can still be a negotiated settlement, rather than the ground war between Yugoslavia and Nato that the KLA favours.

Nato officials and their Contact Group colleagues, howev-er, have reacted with scepticism to the news that Mr Rugova - who at one time was feared to have been killed in the anarchy that engulfed Pristina following the airstrikes is seeking a peaceful solution to Kosovo's almost intractable ethnic problems.

They have suggested that he has been forced to talk with Mr Milosevic, or even that their meeting on Serbian state television was somehow rigged with footage of their

previous encounters.

But Adnan Marovci, Mr Rugova's self-declared chefdu-cabinet, has said in a tele-phone call from Pristina that Mr Rugova has been misrepresented in the Serbian press. which has claimed over the past few days that the ethnic Albanian is now close to Mr Milosevic's official position that airstrikes should end before state security forces withdraw from Kosovo.

"He hasn't said that at all," said Mr Marovci. "He is demanding the Serbs withdraw their forces from Kosovo immediately, quite apart from whether airstrikes end or not." Kosovo's unofficial president could yet emerge as a vital peace broker, reports Tom Walker in Belgrade

ular by his use of English dur-ing the press conference last week that proved he was still alive. His party, the Democratic League for Kosovo (LDK), has tried for much of the past year to persuade their leader to speak English, to help raise his international profile. Mr Rugova, however, has shied away from the language of the information age, preferring French.

"He spoke English and couldn't understand a word of what he was talking about," said one source. That could well be where the confusion is coming from."

Serbian state media say Mr Rugova, his wife and two chil-

Other Albanian sources dren are being "protected" by have been puzzled by Mr Rugova's behaviour, and in particular diplomats regard him as being under house arrest. They fear that his appeals for meetings with Western leaders are being refused by Belgrade, which instead is trying to push him into making contacts with the Russians. State media has even suggested that Mr Rugova might fly to Moscow for talks with President Yeltsin.

Russian news agencies yesterday claimed that the Albanian was in Belgrade again, for a second meeting with Mr Milosevic. There were no pictures to confirm this on state television, however.

KLA representatives have said only that Mr Rugova will be "severely disciplined" if he does any deal without consult-

ovo does not include the LDK Any agreement that allows Mr Milosevic to wriggle clear of international peacekeepers in Kosovo would put Mr Rugova in grave danger, Western security experts in Yugoslavia have admitted.

ing the guerrillas. Their new

Ivica Dacic, spokesman for Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party, yesterday lauded Mr Rugova's search for dialogue and a negotiated settlement".

Mr Rugova, a bespectacled and slightly ruffled academic whose trademark is a scarf wrapped round his neck, is a linguistics expert who studied in France. His father was executed by communists after they restored Kosovo to Yugoslav control under Tito. Despite his family background of violence, however, Mr Rugova has been a Gandhi-like leader. preaching a policy of non-cooperation with Belgrade and the establishment of parallel education and health systems.



Ibrahim Rugova, the ethnic Albanian leader, pictured during last month's peace talks in France, is believed by most observers to be under house arrest in Pristina

Dethroned prince dreams of glory

DESPITE the misspelling, a dirty brass placard announces a once grand presence: His Majest's Legation: 1879-1916 The British Embassy has been closed for more than 80 years; since then, two world wars, the formation and finally the destruction of Yugoslavia have taken place.

The building is now a music academy. and from the faded terracotta building comes the haunting strains of a student playing Bottesini's Tarantella on the double bass. But the former embassy still remains: peeling, faded, ghostly, the beautiful Venetian filed floors cracked, an important symbol of independence for the people of Cetinje.

This is the heart of independent Montenegro and the former capital city in the

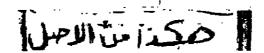
Janine di Giovanni in Cetinje on the hopes of Montenegro

days when it was still a kingdom. Prince Nikola Petrovic-Njegos, the grandson of the last King of Montenegro, now an architect and a fierce advocate of a free Montenegro, spoke to The Times on the troubles of his country which may soon go the way of the other former Yugoslav republics, and eventually break away from Belgrade. "For ten years, we have been in the dictatorship of a nationalistic state which has prevented us from making a demo-

cratic transition and finding the way out of the old communist regime," he says. "It has forced the entire former Yugoslavia into absurd wars and it has locked them in a system of fear." He adds: "The number one problem here is Milosevic."

Prince Nikola believes that the biggest. obstacle to the country's independence is President Milosevic's strength. "Because of the mistakes of the international community. Milosevic has managed to revnite the Serb people around him." Mortenegro is important — it has Yugoslavias only stretch of coastline and Mr Milosevic needs it, militarily and psychologically.

Aleksandr Berculian, a local historian says: "We Montenegrins do not have a no-mantic history. We have a tragic one."



BALKANS WAR: STRATEGY

1999: HOW BELGRADE COULD IMPOSE PARTITION KOSOVO January 1999 before conflict: 2.0millio MACEDONIA

Nato anticipates Serb partition ruse

AS NATO grinds down Serbia's forces and facilities, the West expects President Milosevic to spring a new peace gambit based on the partition of Kosovo. This has been seen as one of his aims since the international community started taking steps to halt the onslaught against the province's ethnic Albanians two years

The supposed Serbian goal would be to split Kosovo in two, leaving Belgrade in control of the northern and eastern regions that are home to the ancient monasteries and battlefields that are deemed to be the cradle of Serbian culture, as well as the province's considerable mineral and coal resources. Western suspicions of Mr Milosevic's goal have been reinforced by the pattern of the Serbian purge of Albanians, which has focused on the north and west and Pristina, the capital.

The West is not ruling out the creation of an enclave to create a haven inside southern Kosovo, but it is now highly unlikely that it would accept partition. Agreement would amount to condoning the eth-nic purge and would be seen as a humiliation for Nato in its new aim of returning the Albanian Kosovars to their homeland and ridding the whole province of Serbian regular

Serbia's aim to retain the best of Kosovo will meet stiff opposition, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

and paramilitary forces. In addition, partition along the supposed lines would leave a rump Kosovo that was economically unviable, say the experts. Belgrade would retain control over much of the wealth, including electricity production and deposits of zinc, nickel and coal that made Kosovo the richest province in terms of natural resources in the former Yugoslavia.

This would create conditions for merging with neigh-bouring Albania. The emergence of such a "Greater Albania" is seen as a strategic aim by Mr Milosovic as a way of sowing conflict and destabilis-ing the Balkan region.

However, a prolonged bombing campaign and the prospect of a bloody ground war could shake Nato resolve enough to consider an offer that could cynically be passed off as a parallel to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the Dayton peace accords, the West effectively condoned the country's partition into a Croat-Muslim region and Serb region. According to one theory, Russia could back partition

and enter the peace arrangement as a guarantor. Planners at the United States Defence Department

have already sketched the demarcation line that they believe Mr Milosevic could seek to lay down. This would run from the Albanian border east to Decani, north to the outskirts of Pec, east along the main road to Pristina and then south past Urosevac to the Macedonian border.

Belgrade would control the main road links in the province as well as access to Macedonia and rich mining areas around Kosovska Mitrovica, northwest of Pristina, according to the Pentagon theory as reported by US media.

Serbia would retain key historic sites, such as the Patriarchate of Pec, the historic seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Visoki Decani monastery in Decani. It would also keep the Cracanica monastery and Kosovo Polje battlefield, southwest of Pristina, where the Serbs were defeated by the Turks in 1389. Belgrade's mythology deems this to be the birthplace of the Serbian fight-

ing soul and it is also the place where Mr Milosevic launched his personal crusade for power in 1987. Sent by Belgrade to quell demonstrations by ethnic Serbs, he incited greater nationalism there by promising to save them from the Albanians who had achieved demographic ascendancy in the

In this version of the map, Serbia would lose Prizren. which has holy sites. Some experts believe Belgrade could also demand a buffer zone along the whole Albanian fron-

In the unlikely event that the allies accepted such a deal, Belgrade could be expected to attempt to retain southern Kosovo as an autonomous prov-ince as outlined in the now-defunct Rambouillet plan, and he would probably seek to have it policed by an international military force that included Russia and other states outside Nato.

☐ Bomb mishap: The US Air Force has launched an inquiry after a bomb was dropped on the tarmac at RAF Fairford. Gloucestershire, yesterday as crews were loading a Bl bomber. It was not armed and did not explode. The weapon was a conventional bomb and not a cruise missile, a US spokesarea was evacuated for a time.

GERMANY GIVES DETAILS OF COVERT PLAN

Berlin: Germany yesterday revealed elements of what it said was Serbia's covert plan, Operation Horseshoe, to expel ethnic Albanians from Kosovo and said there was evidence that it had been drawn up six months before Nato began its air assault on Yugoslavia (Tony Paterson writes).

At a press conference in Bonn, Rudolf Scharping, the Defence Minister, presented

displayed arrows representing Serbian army and police militia units progressively encircling Kosovo in a horseshoe-shaped pincer

Herr Scharping said: "Operation Horseshoe provided clear evidence that President Milosevic had long been preparing the expulsions from Kosovo and that he had simply used the time gained by the Rambouillet photographic slides of four sketch maps con-peace talks to organise army and police units taining the names of towns and villages which

Nato faces long-term task as a protector

number of Nato troops will need to go into Kosovo. If they do not, the refugees will not go if the Nato forces have been rendered more acceptable to the Serbs by having neutral markings on their vehicles or by an accompaniment of Russian and Ukrainian troops. They will not go if there are only unarmed monitors to watch over them. That was the

last plan and it failed. It is not only the returning refugees who will want highquality protection. So will the guid agencies providing assistance and all those who will be involved in the huge job of re-construction All this requires secure conditions.

The Rambouillet peace plan envisaged the introduction of about 28.000 troops as a protection force. Around 12,000 British. French and German troops are in Macedonia, where they have been preparing for this mission. They are currently involved in the refu-

This number was calculated with reference to the area to be covered, the nature of the terrain and internal communica-tions, and the logistical probtems. The damage inflicted by the Serb campaign against the Kosovan Albanians and the Nato campaign against the Serb units responsible may have affected the calculations but the new strategic situation reason for a reassessment.

In the effort to get President Milosevic's signature, significant concessions were made to the Serbs — a provision for more than 5,000 Serb troops to stay in the province to patrol borders and assert sovereignty, and an undertaking that



Substantial numbers of troops will be needed in Kosovo whatever the future holds, writes Lawrence Freedman

fighters would be disarmed. Even while the negotiations were going on it was not hard to imagine how skirmishes between Serbs and Albanians could give the implementation force a serious headache if it was to preserve law and order while maintaining a reputation for impartiality.

Nato demands have now been revised to require all Serb forces to leave Kosovo and it is doubtful that the disarmament of the KLA is going to be quite so high a priority. Without any Serb military units in the area the peacekeeping task would obviously be

Two new requirements suggest themselves. First, there will be a need to guard the border of Kosovo against any attempt to infiltrate Serb units. Second. the remaining Serb civilians, as well as their reli-gious and historical sites, will need protection from Albanians seeking vengeance. Many weapons have already been distributed to Serb civilians. Having been used to harass the Albanians, these weapons will come to be seen as a vital form of self-defence.

This is one of the reasons why Kosovo will have to become in effect a Nato protectorate, whatever its constitutional position as notionally part of Serbia or on the road to independence. The alliance will have responsibility for law and order, guarding the borders and overseeing the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure and the regeneration of its economy.

The new requirements may lead to changes in the composition of the protection force but they do not argue for big revi-sions to the proposed num-bers. The basic problem for Nato planners is that existing plans all assume the force enters with Serb consent. It was Mr Milosevic's refusal to countenance the entry of Nato forces that led to the breakdown of the Rambouillet talks and remains the central issue of con-

Before he accedes to this demand under duress, Mr Milo-sevic will almost certainly first offer partition. As this would probably be accompanied by a movement of Serbs out of the rump Kosovo, this would ease the requirements of a protection force. For the moment such an offer would undoubtedly be refused.

Washington: Americans are digging in for a long war which they expect to last months or even years and re-sult in the deaths of their own soldiers (Damian Whitworth writes). Despite President Clinton's pronouncements, they believe ground troops will be sent in to try and complete the job in Kosovo and they are roughly equally divided on whether this is the right thing to do. Mr Clinton will be study ing most carefully data that shows a widespread belief that Nato is unlikely to achieve its aims swiftly and by air war-





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"Corridor" for US soldiers

Continued from page 1 ple for brutal nationalistic purposes," the EU foreign ministers said in a statement.

However, in Brussels there were firm denials that Nato bembers had been responsible for the huge damage to civilian buildings in Pristina.

Western defence sources said that although Nato bombers had hit targets in Pristina. the attacks had been in other parts of the town and they insisted that the type of damage heing shown on television would not have been as the result of bombs from the air.

Intelligence sources said last week that there was evidence of Yugoslav troops placing trucks with explosives in a number of towns, to cause damage which could then be blamed on Nato bombers.

Responding to Belgrade's claim that the oppression in Kosovo had now stopped. Senor Solana said: "The information that I have at the moment very clearly indicates that mili-tary operations are continuing on the Serbian side in a dra-

RAF Harriers were involved in back-to-back bombing raids over Kosovo in the hunt for Yugoslav forces in the province. After one wave had returned from a morning raid, dropping anti-personnel cluster bombs on mobile Yugoslav units, a second wave took off for a similar mission. There were also further raids on Belgrade. More than 400 Nato

hours, the alliance said. As a boost to Nato's plan to expand its firepower in the region, the Albanian parliament vesterday approved the deployment of 24 American Apache attack helicopters to Albania.

missions were flown in 24

BALKANS WAR: THE ALLIANCE

Nervous allies get appetite for war



Europe has found the stomach for a fight by marching to an American drum, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

IF NATO blundered by counting on a swift collapse by President Milosevic after a bout of bombing, the alliance can take heart from another misjudgment. This was the assumption that continental Europe and the shakier governments would soon wobble under the pressure of public disapproval and pacifist politicians.

A disaster in the Balkans could still bring that about Italy showed renewed signs of wavering yesterday with a sug-



gestion that that the bombing should stop soon. But for the moment, there is general relief over the resolve among allied states as the barbarity in Kosovo has rallied a revolted public behind the Nato offensive. A decade ago, after the col-

lapse of communism, it would have been unthinkable to imagine Paris, Bonn and Rome marching into battle on European soil under American command. Polls now show growing support for a ground cam-

To the horror of diehard anropean Union as it tries to ti-imperialists in France, Germanage its own security and extend eastwards. many and elsewhere. Nato's "just war". as Le Monde called if has achieved a secondary result of reasserting American

power in the old world and ex-

posing the feebleness of the Eu-

As the European media have turned the campaign into good guy Washington versus bad guy Belgrade, it is clear

homegrown defence under Nato auspices. It should also jolt the EU into toning down the internal obsessions that have sapped its desire for eastthat even an incomplete and

ward expansion. Old reflexes are still operating. Anti-American feeling is visible from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and it is being fuelled by signs of sup-

galvanise the EU into speed-

posed Yankee arrogance.

Many did not like the way
President Clinton dismissed the Belgrade peace offer apparently before consulting his Nato partners.

in Germany, Chancellor Schröder faces dissent from some of his Social Democrats, while in Italy Massimo d'Alema, the Prime Minister, is under pressure from his Communist coalition partners. Greek qualms are a special case, given the country's Balkan entre cleaners.

But the biggest example of a Kosovo-inspired upheaval is in France, where the Gaullist President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, have thrown their weight behind Nato, sowing dismay among hardline Gaullists and old leftists alike.

M Jospin's Green coalition partners are demanding a Nato ground offensive while the Communists, also in Government, have succumbed to old pro-Soviet instincts and are marching alongside pro-Milosevic Serbs.

Traditionalist French think-

ers claim the whole Balkan war is a naked American plot. supported by British poodles, for the control of Europe. How-ever most have fallen in behind the view — not heard in Paris since the wartime Liberation - that America has come as a necessary, although unwelcome, saviour for an impotent Europe.

Laying down new dogma vesterday. Le Nouvel Observateur, bible of the leftwing int-

elligentsia, thundered: "Demessy success for Nato will nouncing American imperialism ... shows an intellectual ing British-backed plans for a vacuum, the abandonment of all international ambition for France and for Europe."

Against this background, governments are trying to extract lessons and carve out a role for an EU that has been sorely eclipsed. The biggest symbol of the pecking order came ten days ago when the European Commission dutiful; ly turned up at Nato headquarters in Brussels for a crisis session on the conflict. French feathers were ruffled by this first official collaboration be-

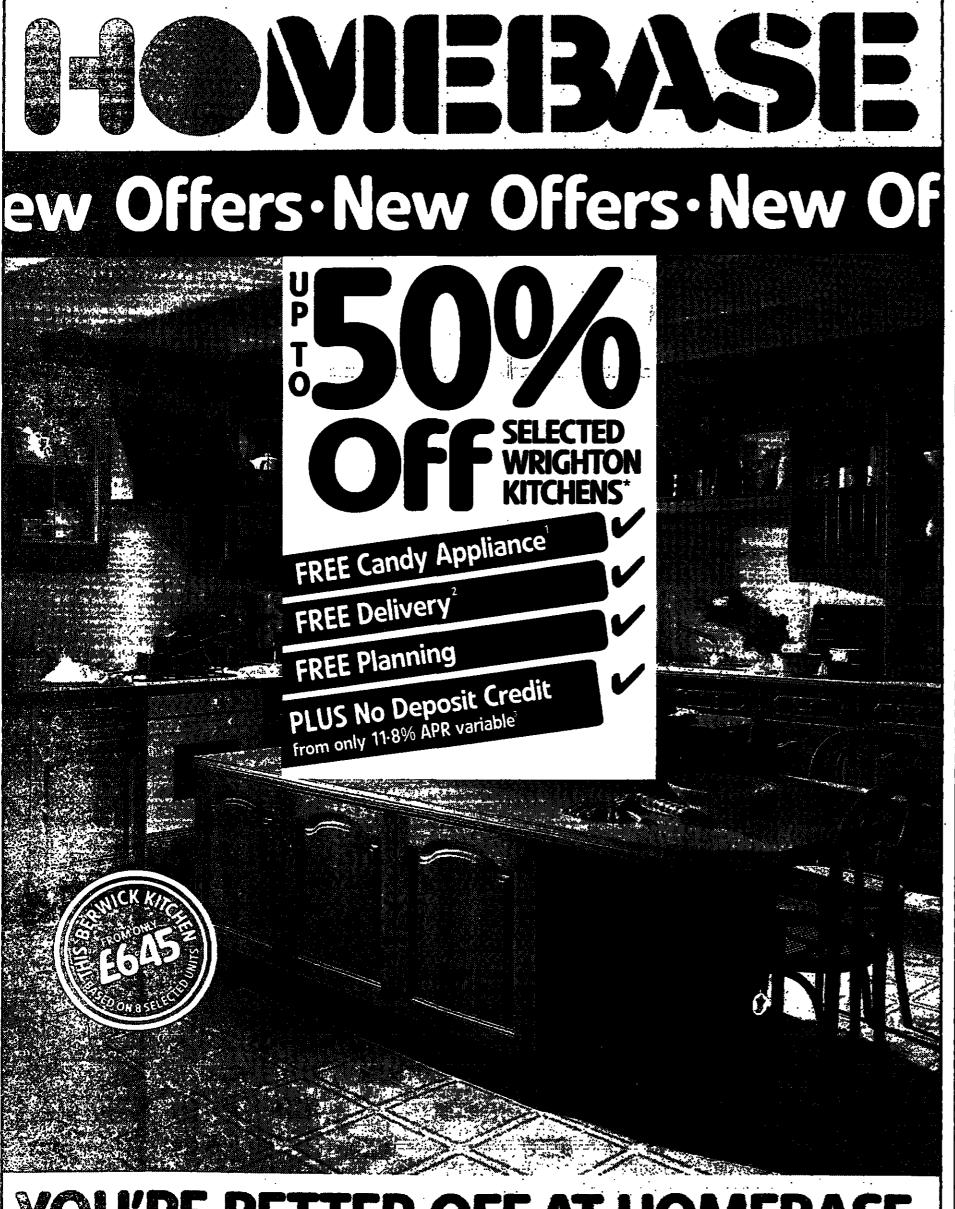
tween the two organisations.

The EU, which includes four non-Nato states, is trying to assert itself through human-

Nato's just war has achieved a secondary result of reasserting American power in the old world ⁹

itarian relief and with diplomatic and financial efforts to shore up the region. The Commission, enfeebled by its caretaker status, is busy with a plan to reward Macedonia with promises of jumping the queue for EU membership.

Beyond the immediate conflict. Europe is drawing one conclusion: the EU's new machinery for running a centralised EU foreign policy - due for launch this summer - will come to nothing without a fullscale military structure and the will to use it. A Nato success in Kosovo will be a big boost to Tony Blair's plan to ensure the closest of links between the American-led alliance and the EU's semi-autonomous EU defence arm.



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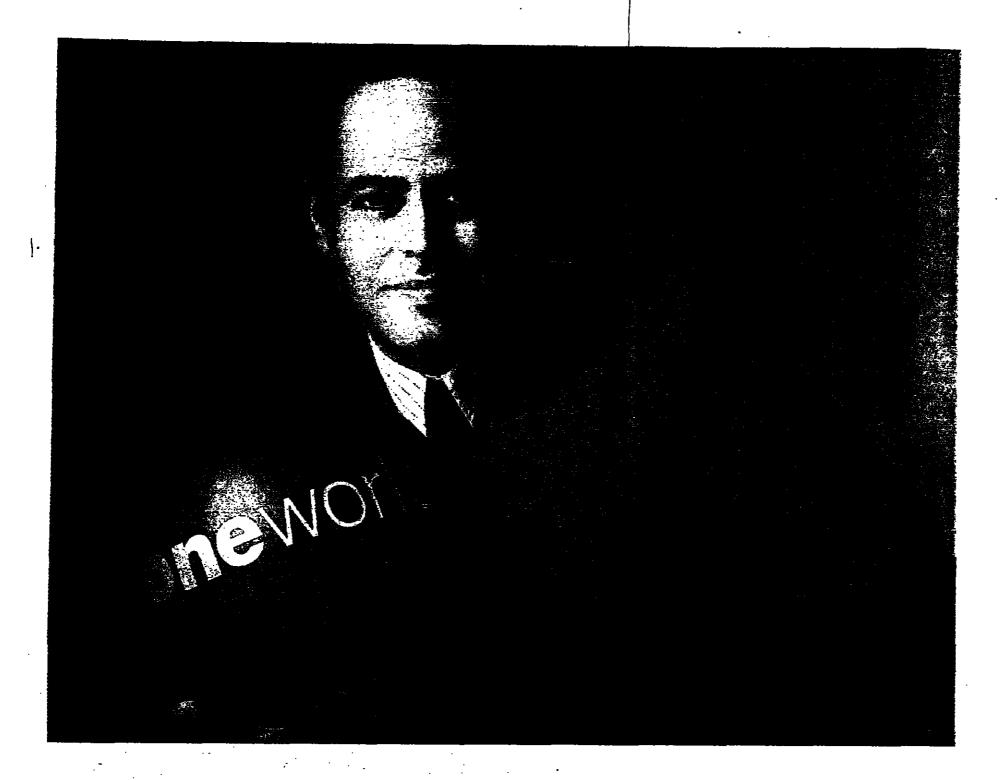
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British troops give sanctuary to destitute

TO PREVENT any more of Kosovo's refugees being forcibly driven out of Macedonia. British troops have offered to give sanctuary to anyone who wants it at its hastily built camp.

Senior officers asked Macedonian ministers if those families separated and stranded around the country could be brought together at the tented refuge built on a grass airstrip at Brazda. Brigadier Tim Cross, running this Nato relief operation, said: "We will find room for them all somehow so there is time for the UN and everyone else to plan their futures properly.

In just two days about 28,000 refugees have poured into this still unfinished camp and they are still coming.

Yesterday, he located a makeshift camp of a thousand refugees near Kumanovo that no one knew existed. Its discovery involved him in more painful and protracted negotiations to get these lorgotten families into his care.

Macedonian officials have yet to respond to the British offer of a bayen. Their inclination remains to push the Kosovo Albanians beyond its own

Daniel McGrory

at Brazda sees soldiers struggle

to rescue the sick and the dying

borders rather than ensure their comfort and safety.
While the Western alliance

remains the main provider for the refugees, its commanders realise they are going to have to hand over the running of its humanitarian camps to the United Nations and local officials while they ready themselves for orders to move across the border into Kosovo to enforce any peace deal. It is understood that Nato has given a ten-day deadline for aid agencies to replace them but the dilemma is that without the Nato military role this aid operation would collapse.

Frightened families dread the prospect of Macedonian riot police taking control of this camp but British troops are reluctant to stay on "an open-ended basis". One senior

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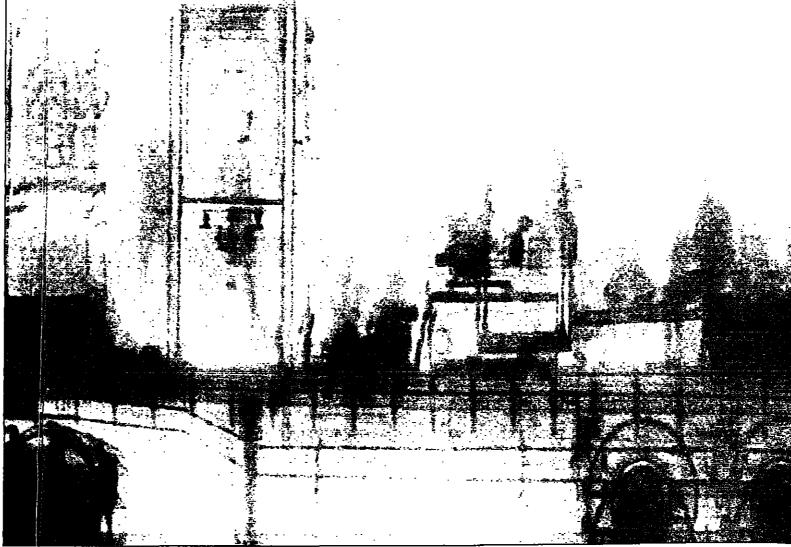
British officer said last night: "We can't be responsible for running a refugee camp maybe for years but we clearly won't walk away."

The most delicate issue is

the protection of Brazda. Macedonian police burst inside the compound yesterday saying they were looking for "terrorist suspects" linked to the Kosovo Liberation Army who they claimed were posing as refugees. Robust persuasion saw the police leave to the evident relief of watching refugees. But a senior Nato officer noted: 'The Skopje Government has said their police won't come inside our perimeters, but the truth is there is not much we can do to stop them."

Rows of tents dot the airfield and a nearby hillside. The newer, exhausted arrivals spread blankets on any patch of grass they can find as soldiers run between them offering food and drink. A seamless procession of lorries arrives bringing food, extra tents and blankets.

The sudden human deluge on Brazda was seen as a deliberate retaliation by Macedononian officials after Brigadier Cross and Clare Short, the Secretary of State for Internation-



An X-ray image reveals Kosovo Albanian stowaways inside a lorry bound for England yesterday. The X-ray was taken by French Customs at the Channel Tunnel freight terminal at Calais. About 40 ethnic Albanian refugees besiege the terminal daily to seek a way to cross the Channel

al Development, protested earlier this week over their obstructing the refugees' escape. For some this sanctuary came too late. Major Jeremy

Rowan stood outside the field

hospital he had set up on the

edge of the camp and which was staffed by doctors from half a dozen nations. "Some newborn infants, and some of the very old were beyond any medical help by the time they reached us. If we could have

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got to them a few hours before it would have been a different story." The major transferred some of the most chronically sick in British Army ambulances to hospitals in Skopje

"We have seen patients here who were thrown out of hospitals in Pristina without their post-operative wounds being properly dressed. There are many elderly people with chronic illnesses like heart ailments, diabetes and they do not have their medicines. John Dailly, the army chaplain, observed: "What is so remarkable after all their suffer-

Bombs start to take toll on Serb morale

THE moustachioed driver crossed himself in the Orthodox fashion and braced his arms on the steering wheel. Into the Valley of Death, we thought, our prayers joining his in the hope that the old jalopy would hold together in this, our hour of need. The steely-grey waters of the Danube sped by below as our nails dug into seat cushions and we held our collective breath.

Catching the 95 bus to Pancevo was a hazardous venture at the best of times, given the state of Belgrade's public transport system. But these days charging the mile of rickety ironwork that links the northern suburb to the capital has an extra frisson for commuters: the ancient bridge might be hit by a cruise missile. Once home from their night-

ly run of Nato's gauntlet, their main concern is getting back the next morning. "When I hear the explosions, I roll out of bed and check if the bridge is still there. Then I go back to sleep," said my taxi driver, Nenad. But he also spoke of the anger that wells up within him at every detonation. "As my house is shaking, it's difficult to tell you how I feel - but let them come to us on the ground, and then they'll have their deaths, too,"

As the bombs fall, Belgrade transforms from the reasona-bly civilised place it is by day to a shadowy world of security forces and night-time prowlers in smoked-glass BMWs and Audis. It is a place where English can no longer be spoken, and quiet observation is made from the dimmest recesses. Groups of flat-dwellers huddle on pavements beneath the stars, and blue police lights wink on distant intersections.

There is anger. But there is fear, too. "I fought in Slovenia and Croatia, but I cannot understand this. Where will the bread come from for me to feed my wife and child?" asked Goran, driving one of the few taxis patrolling this nether world of laser-guided death. "I



Tom Walker looks beyond the anger and fear on the streets of Belgrade and sees cracks appear in national solidarity

and work." But the bread does come, and the fruit and vegetables: the markets are full of them. and many of us wait for the strawberries of late spring. There are still traffic jams and many people travel one to a car, despite street rumours that fuel racketeers risk being shot on the spot and that diesel has run out in southern Serbia. Mobile phones bleep and students flock to Internet

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cales, though not to surf for news. In the sun, the terraces bustle with life and the Balkan love affair with Turkish coffee and a cigarene is unbroken. At a superficial glance, war with Nato is a phoney business.

But look deeper and cracks are appearing in the rotten basement of Serbian society. where seven years of sanctions and reliance on a gangster-led grey economy are taking their toll. Grafitti stretching across the wrecked interiors of the

US and French cultural centres is coarse but funny; but the appearance of hardcore pornography films on midday television is disturbing.

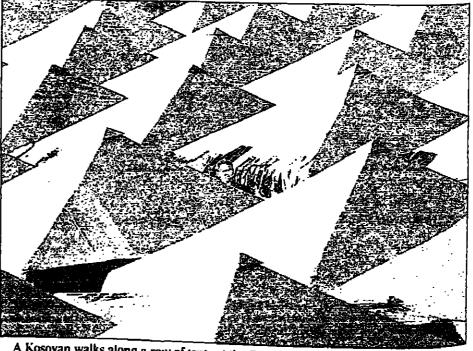
Serbia is taking a battering. morally and physically. The airstrikes are leaving it in need of a Marshall-style reconstruction plan. Should Nam target bridges across Belgrade's Sava and Danube rivers, the country will lie in a series of disjointed and mori-bund parts. There had been few functioning factories, and the bombardment of chemical and white-goods plants has put thousands more out of work. With production dipping towards zero, salaries go unpaid and people rely on the small farms from which near-

ly all came.

The effect of airstrikes on the media is hardly encouraging either, with independent voices and opinions virtually snuffed out. Few Serbs have access to satellite television, and those that do dismiss much Nato-speak as lies. On the radio, the BBC World Service is similarly ignored. In the heat of yesterday after-

noon, it was difficult to believe anything was amiss in the leafy suburbs near President Milosevic's residence. Horses are trained in the hippodrome in the valley below, the sense of tranquillity broken only by a helicopter flying low to-wards the military hospital.

As Nenad waited to hear if his girlfriend Mira was safely across the Pancevo bridge, he tuned the car radio to his favourite station, Nostalgia 90.2 FM. "I like it because there's no news and they play music from the old Yugoslavia," he said. "It's good stuff and you can forget things for a while."

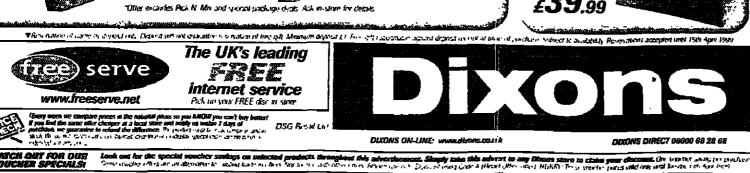


A Kosovan walks along a row of tents at the Brazda camp where Macedonian police bussed thousands of refugees from the border no man's land during the night

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THE BALKANS: THE REFUGEES

Troops mine frontier to cut off escape

SERB soldiers dug trenches and laid more mines along Kosovo's border with Albania yesterday to prevent any escape by the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians who have been forced back from refugee convoys.

The Serbs, who pointed sniper rifles at anyone straying too near the Morine frontier. toiled at their task yesterday to keep what Nato fears are huge numbers of hostages inside Kosovo, having spent the previous week robbing, raping, and expelling them.

Nevertheless, one man es-caped. Rahim Zulfaz who at 83 is too old to serve in the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army and was therefore spared death, staggered across the border in his socks. He had been walk-ing for three days from a village close to Prizren, about 15 miles from the Morine crossing, after he got off his family's tractor to relieve himself, and was cut off as the Serbs forced the exodus of more than 200,000 people into Albania.

"My eyesight is now very bad. I could not find anyone and wandered about for a while. Then I found the road and just started walking. I had left my shoes in the trailer so ! was just in socks," the retired farmer said

He said he thought his family had reached Albania. He was resting from his ordeal in



Ogata: visited makeshift

At the Morine crossing point, Sam Kiley watches the Serbs try to keep in the inhabitants they had begun to drive out

shooting had stopped in Kosovo. They said I should go home. I did not tell them that

would be a waste of time because they had burnt it down.
I just said I wanted to see my

family who were in Albania.

They gave me a glass of water

Yesterday Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees, said

she was "very, very worried"

after a visit to a refugee camp

and wished me luck."

an Italian Army hospital set had still not been traced yesterday. Medical staff did not have the heart to tell him that they feared his relatives might be among the estimated 80,000 people driven back from the 15-mile queue that had been trying to cross into Albania at Morine.

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, said yesterday she feared for the lives of the remaining Kosovo Albanians.
"They [the Serbs] seem now to
have started rounding up refu-

gees queuing to leave Kosovo and returning them by force. We do not know whether they have been driven back to their homes or elsewhere within Kosovo. It is not known where the refugees are and what is happening to them."
But their fate is obvious to

refugees who have fled Kosovo. Milo Goranyi, who arrived at Morine four days ago before the border was closed, claimed: "They are being held in concentration camps as hostages and human shields. Milosevic needs them to defend against the attacks on his

Mr Zulfaz described an eerie walk past thousands of vehicles that had been abandoned. He spent two nights sleeping in cars that he said had been left "in a hurry" with lenty of blankets inside.

Some of the vehicles, such as tractors and buses, had been lestroyed by Serbs who were ordered to end the expulsion of Kosovo's Albanians. The Serbian leader's policy is clearly now to hold captive the remain-ing Kosovo Albanians since they represent his best defence

craft and helicopter gunships. Mr Zulfaz said: "When I got to the border the guards said 1

Plight of missing thousands worries refugee agencies

FROM DANIEL McGRORY IN SKOPJE

AID agencies were still trying to discover last night what had become of thousands of refugees forcibly evicted from Macedonia's borders.

While the UN searched for 10,000 they say are unaccountabout up to 60,000 refugees forced back into Kosovo by the Serbs in the past 48 hours. Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, is among many who fear these families may

be used as human shields. Most of Kosovo's borders remained scaled yesterday. Nato admitted that those repatriated were "beyond our reach". If thousands are trapped in Kosovo at gun-point it will reinvigorate the argument for ground troops to be sent from Macedonia and Albania

Serb border troops could be seen laying new minefields yesterday just beyond the frontier, beside some of the cars ahandoned by families who were made to retrace their tracks to homes they fear have

been burnt or seized. In Macedonia a grotesque game of hide-and-seek was being played last night as the Skopje Government and aid agencies squabbled over the numbers bussed away in darkness from the squalid transit camp at Blace. The Red Cross and the UNHCR believe that between 27.000 and 30.000 had been held there.

The Skopje authorities claim there were 15,000 at most. About 7.000, they say. s are in Albania, camping in a sports stadium. About the same number, they claim, are still inside Macedonia, including 2,000 sent to the Brazda refuge run by British troops.

Nato commanders there say they only received three bustoads on the night of the

Blace deportation.
A senior UNHCR official said: "Anyone who witnessed the scene at Blace can see there were up 30,000 on that riverbank. We want to know where all these people are." As neither the UN nor Nato

was allowed to register those trapped at the frontier, there is no way of knowing for sure. A UNHCR spokesman said: We have still not received a single name of any of those expelled from Blace. What we know from those who are accounted for is that their fami-

UNHCR officials in Greece said last night that a convoy of buses carrying 2,000 refugees arrived at the southern border of Macedonia and was turned away. They believe the buses were diverted to Albania.

They fear those unaccounted for may be being kept at makeshift camps closer to the Albanian border where the Macedonians want all the ref-

ugees to go. they made it clear that they could accept no more refu-gees. Thomir Ilievski, of the Foreign Ministry, said: "A third of the Bosnian refugees we took in have never gone home. We are not a rich country and this many ethnic Alba-

nians would cause unrest." He also criticised Nato's part in the exodus, saying these airstrikes provoked some of these people to flee Kosovo. We took them away at night because the roads were quieter so we could

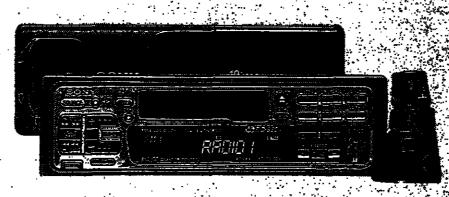
make their journey easier." Last night Nato was using its surveillance planes to moni-tor the drift of refugees back to Kosovo. Monitors from the OSCE who have spoken to some of their local staff trapped inside Kosovo report that they were turned back from the borders by the Serbs who said as the operation against the KLA had ended it was safe for them to go home.

'Can you imagine anyone who stood on a road for eight days trusting someone who forced them out of their homes?" a spokesman said.



Kosovo refugees reach out to receive bread vesterday at a temporary holding camp in an old factory on the outskirts of Kukes in Albania. The exodus of refugees has stopped since the Serb authorities sealed the borders, prompting fears that they may be used as human shields

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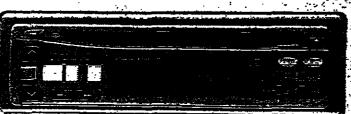


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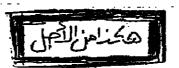
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Pregnant women told wine is worse than cigarettes

WOMEN who drink a glass of wine each day during their pregnancy could be doing more harm to their babies than if they smoke, according to research published in Belfast yesterday.

The study suggests that a woman who drinks between five and seven units of alcohol a weekrisks damaging the central nervous system of her

The research, carried out by the Foetal Behavioural Centre at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Belfast, found that a baby's brain stem was more adversely affected by alcohol than cigarettes. The findings will come as a shock to many women, who have been repeatedly warned of cig-arettes during pregnancy but rold that an occasional glass of wine would not do their foetus any harm.

Jenny Little, a researcher at the centre, said that her findings undermined the traditional medical wisdom that a little alcohol would not harm a deeloping baby.

She tested the startle reaction, or sudden movement of the arms, in 129 unborn babies aged 25 weeks. She found that the foetuses of many women who drank did not react to the

New research challenges

medical wisdom

about dangers to babies, reports

buzzer stimulus placed on the mother's stomach. Most babies of women who did not drink reacted within the re-

quired 4.5 seconds.

Audrey Magee

She tested women in four categories: women who drank and smoked, women who smoked but did not drink, women who drank but did not smoke, and a control group of women who neither drank nor smoked. In the control group, 70 per cent of babies had developed the startle reaction by 25 weeks and reacted to the stimulus. Ms Little said that it was perfectly normal that the remaining 30 per cent of foetuses would develop the startle reac-

tion at a later date. But only 42.1 per cent of babies of women who drank reacted, compared with 55 per cent of the foetuses of women

dren of women who smoked and drank fared worst, with only 37.5 per cent of unborn babies reacting to the buzzing sound. Ms Little said: "I think more information is needed and more health promotion campaigns against drinking alcohol during pregnancy."

She said that she was uncer-

tain of the long-term effects of alcohol on the children after birth as they scored normally in all tests carried out on newborn babies. She added that it was possible, however, that a baby showing no startle reaction in the womb at 25 weeks could suffer cognitive and be-havioural difficulties when it was older.

"We need more research carried out on this. In the United States women are told not to drink any alcohol during preg-

The Foetal Behavioural Centre, which is linked to the psychology department of Queen's University in Belfast, has also examined the foetal movements of unborn babies suffering spina bifida. The research carried out shows that some kinds of spina bilida lesions would benefit from being operated on while the baby



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Yoghurt pots a fortune for organic farm

AN ORGANIC farmer who used up spare milk to make yoghuri and cream has turned her kitchen hobby into a multimillion-pound organic dairy business.

Rachel Rowlands is now hoping to do for organic yoghurt what Laura Ashley did for flowerprinted cotton. But the success of Rachel's Dairy is all because of a freak of nature. A snowstorm in 1982 prevented tankers from collecting Guernsey milk from her 250-acre Brynllys farm at Borth, near Aberystwyth.

Mrs Rowlands refused to nour her milk down the drain. Instead, she hunted out her grandmother's old butter churn and separator and set to

"It took ten days for the tankers to get to us so I made the voghurts and cream and gave the skimmed milk to the cows. I approached some local shops and hotels with the produce and they all wanted more."

From a few dozen pots a week in 1982, which brought in some £5,000 a year. Mrs Rowlands is now producing 25,000 pots a day with a £3 million annual turnover.

Yesterday, a multimillionpound deal with Horizon. America's main organic dairy producer, put Rachel's Dairy on track to expand with more organic dairy processing plants near organic farms around the country.

They hope to expand into new markets throughout Europe and Mrs Rowlands hopes that her business will persuade more farmers to return to organic techniques.

We want to help to bring more jobs to the countryside and for farmers to convert to organic techniques," she said.

"There is still a lot of reluctance to do so, though. They think if everyone does it there only using 3.5 million litres of milk a year. We want that to go to five million in a year and

20 million in the years ahead." The farm. first owned by her grandmother and then by her mother. Dinah Williams. now 88, has been a leading exponent of organic farming. Mrs. Williams was convinced that she should stick to traditional farming techniques after a chance meeting with Lady Eve Balfour, a founder member of

the Soil Association, in 1948. Mrs Rowlands, 52, and her husband, Gareth, 54, continued the trend and realised that people were concerned about the origins of their food and how it was produced. They opened up their farm and allowed people to see what they did and how the animals

were treated. The couple refused to say how much they had made on the deal. Mrs Rowlands said. however, that they and their three children had gained security: "We will feel comfortable and relaxed. Don't listen to anyone who says hard work does not pay. We took many risks over the years and we put our farm as collateral to get the factory."

The couple will be consultants to the firm. Mrs Rowlands has a seat on the board and her son John, 32, will be operations manager of the company in Britain - so far a factory in Aberystwyth with a staff of 48, but they hope to double the business within five years.

Other processing plants are also planned, possibly in Comwall and Lancashire.

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Area feet and

When the bride wore red

By PHILIP HOWARD

IN Ancient Greece, a bride wore a veil that marked her out as an object of importance. Her modern sister 25 centuries later wears one for the same purpose. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones.

of the University of Wales yesterday gave a paper to the Classical Association, meeting in Liverpool. on the wedding customs his research has uncovered. The few ancient texts that speak of the wedding veil call its colour "krokos". This is usually translated as yellow. like the bulb we call a crocus. But ancient colourwords are problematic.

Lieweilyn-Jones thinks that the Greek veil was not yellow, but red. He argues that it was a metaphor for the hymen. In tooned with white ribbons.

most "veil societies" red veils are still worn at marriage rituals. There may be a connection between the colour and the blood of the bride supposed to be released at first intercourse.

In some modern weddings the bride is unveiled at the end of the ceremony with the exhortation to the groom. "you may now kiss the bride". The bride was also unveiled at an Ancient Greek wedding. But Mr Liewellyn-Jones believes that her unveiling was a rite of debasement.

The unveiling happened at the home of the bride, before she was led off, veiled again, to the groom's house in the ancient equivalent of a stretch limo fes-

المكذا من الاصل

Prince visits old man of the islands



Donald McKillop with the Prince on TV and, below,





The Prince of Wales among young shinty players yesterday on Berneray, where he had returned to open a £6 million causeway

Gillian Harris and Alan Hamilton on a reunion in the Hebrides

THE Prince of Wales took time off from official duties in the Outer Hebrides yesterday to visit the old friend Royal Yacht Britannia. Shortly after who taught him about crofting. Donald McKillop was his host for a prihis marriage, he landed on the island from the yacht with the Prin-cess of Wales. By 1987 his marriage vate visit 12 years ago when he retreated to the island of Berneray to was in virtual ruins and he was spending more and more time alone The Prince has the title Lord of the Isles. Mr McKillop has the nickin Scotland. He asked to experience the crofting life, both as a farmer name Splash, which he says derives himself at Highgrove and a king in waiting anxious to meet his ordifrom a childhood habit of walking in puddles, although other islanders insist it refers to the amount of wanary future subjects. Mr McKillop ter he puts in a glass of whisky. was chosen as a typical crofter, grow-ing arable crops and potatoes and Their latest reunion-came as the Prince travelled to Berneray to open rearing sheep.

a £6.6 million causeway linking the tiny island to North Uist. days, living in the cottage with the The Prince first knew of Berneray crofter and his Australian wife Glofrom the Royal Family's traditional ria. a retired nurse. During his visit Western Isles summer cruise in the

try the simple farming life.

wall, planted potatoes, dipped sheep and fished for prawn and lobster in a creel boat, hauling in the lines like an experienced deckhand. He also attended a local funeral and tried cutting peat on neighbouring North Uist. According to friends, he fell in love with the crotting lifestyle and went home with his developing interest in organic farming firmly rein-

So discreet are the islanders that the Prince's 1987 visit to Berneray remained a secret until it was over. He The Prince was a guest for five returned to the island in 1991 to make a television documentary with the presenter Selina Scott, but since then had not been back until yesterthe Prince helped to build a drystone day. After the programme, A Prince coction of whisky and liqueur when

Among Islands, was shown, Mr McKillop was inundated with requests from restaurants wanting to buy potatoes, known locally as Prince Charlies, from the "Prince's croft" but, despite the lucrative deals on offer, the crofter refused.

Mr McKillop, now 67, still runs his croft, although he has given up arable crops and it is a long time since he went out in his own fishing boat. Since his wife Gloria retired from the health service, they have run a bed and breakfast business from their home.

The Prince arrived more than an hour late yesterday due to high winds. He recalled drinking a conhe was last on the island. "I discovered what a 'rusty nail' is, and I am not sure that it did anything for my brain. However I am hoping for another one later," he said. He met most of the island's 130 population in the community hall, and later had a private meeting with the Mc-Killops.

The Prince was already well-informed on farming before his 1987 stay. During the 1970s he had absorbed the ideas of sustainable agriculture promoted in Fritz Schumacher's book Small Is Beautiful. When he began to take a hands-on approach to running the Duchy of Cornwall, he was persuaded of the merits of organic farming by its

then secretary, Sir John Higgs. He began an intensive programme of visiting Duchy tenant farmers, which included spending a full week on a Dartmoor hill farm, which pro-duced a memorable picture of him

milking a cow. The island celebrated the Prince's visit with a shinty festival and an informal buffet in the church hall. Before officially opening the half-mile long causeway, which replaces a ten-minute ferry crossing, the Prince posi visited Chearsabhaig Arts Centre in Lochmaddy, North Uist, and the

town's refurbished medical centre. The Prince had also been hoping to declare the causeway open in Gaelic, but that had to be abandoned, because there was no time to rehearse with any of the Gaelic speaking islanders.

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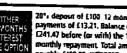


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HOME NEWS 13

· British TV 'too morose for foreign tastes'

RRITISH television shows are considered too "gritty, dark and socio-political" by many foreign channels, a government- backed report said yesterday. Home-made drama, in par-

ticular, is regarded as "non-escapisi" and bleak, while our comedies are often incomprehensible to an overseas audience because of their reliance on social nuance.

Television stations in other countries believe many pro-grammes to be too "intrinsicaly British" and morose, the study says. The French channel M6, for example, rejected Prime Suspect, the crime drama starring Helen Mirren, givng as its reason: "British stuff is so realistic. It doesn't necessarily mean that it is violent. but it is dark, drugs, sex - not always graphic violence, but it is just perverse.

A spokesman for Canale 5 in Italy said: "Television should be about entertainment and escapism. We do not want to watch a programme that deals with the same problems that you faced in the day."

Part of Britain's problem would appear to be the climate, according to the report. It says that the Australian soap opera Home and Away captured teenage and young family audiences all over Europe by portraying a destina-tion that many Europeans

Programme makers urged to

follow example of Australian soaps, reports

Carol Midgley find attractive; an open, young country with a sunshine lifestyle." By contrast, it says, "an old country like Britain will

lose out if it, too, cannot portray itself as a fictional destination which audiences elsewhere can enjoy".

The report, jointly commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and British media companies, said

that the British sitcom was con-sidered to be in decline by foreign buyers. At recent screenings, ITV's Holding the Baby. starring Nick Hancock, was described by buyers as "lacking real spirit, very dull".

Keeping Up Appearances, the BBC's highly popular com-edy about a middle-England social climber, has been successful overseas. But the report says: "Hyacinth Bouquet ... is seen abroad exclusively as a bossy, overbearing woman, not as a snob or social climber.

Thankfully, other elements of the comedy mean that the show is successful anyway."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, yesterday launched an inquiry into the broadcasting market to improve Britain's export of programmes in the

Mr Smith said the British television industry was running a £272 million trade deficit, partly because of the high prices paid for Hollywood films, American imports such as Friends and the introduction of multi-channel television in recent years.

The report, written by the media consultants David Graham and Associates, and backed by such bodies as BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, Granada Media International and Pearson Television, said that the British television industry tended to be "self-sufficient and insular" and had not made the best of co-production deals and overseas programme sales.

Britain is, nevertheless the second-biggest exporter of programmes in the world after America, although the British share of the export market is 8 per cent compared with America's 72 per cent.

Among those programmes that perform well in foreign markets are the crime drama Cracker, Teletubbies, Top of



Benny Hill's seaside-postcard humour still sells well abroad, but situation comedies struggle to find foreign fans

the Pops and Benny Hill. Britain also has a good record for exports of high-quality science, history and wildlife programmes, and for developing entertainment formats that can be adapted for audiences abroad such as Cilla Black's Surprise, Surprise and Ready,

حكداً من الأصل

Steady Cook The report recommends

that the Government should

consider relaxing the regula-tion of domestic broadcasters to enable them to compete more successfully abroad, consider giving tax breaks to encourage investment in original programme production, and that a single trade body such as the British Television Distributors Association should act as a focus for exports.

Mr Smith praised the high

quality of British program-ming, and said that broadcasters should not dilute the unique Britishness of programmes simply to cater to for-eign tastes. "What we must not end up doing is making

the tail wag the dog," he said. The report came after the announcement that Coronation Street has been sold for broadcast in the US for the first

time. Rupert Gavin, chief executive of BBC Worldwide. said:

The BBC has a positive halance of trade in programme exports of £22 million in 1997-78 and constitutes about half of all UK exports.

'However, the marketplace is increasingly competitive and we have had to find innovative ways of meeting those

Hospital drama link to suicide attempts

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

SUICIDAL viewers mimic the medical emergencies they see on television hospital draes such as Casualty and

ER, a study has found. In the week after a paracetamol overdose was shown on Casualty, hospitals saw up to 20 per cent more cases of overdose with the drug.

It is the first time that television drama has been shown to affect suicide rates in Britin, according to the author of the report, Keith Hawton, Professor of Psychiatry at Oxford University.

The findings, published in the British Medical Journal. raised serious issues about whether suicide should be dramatised, he said. Potential suicides seemed to take note of the drug used, with overdose patients who had seen the Casualty episode twice as likely to take para cetamol as those who did not.

Researchers monitored the effects on bospital admissions of an episode of Casualry in which an RAF pilot arrives in hospital two days after taking 50 paracetamol. The 49 hospitals checked recorded an average rise of 17 per cent in paracetamol overdoses, and a 9 per cent rise in overdoses using other drugs. in the next week.

A spokeswoman for Casualty, a Saturday primetime show on BBCI, said details of suicides were shown in the in-

Duck in Bath holds up £15m millennium plan

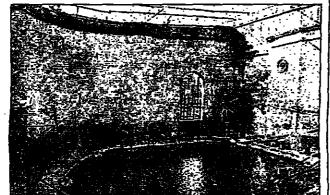
By A Correspondent

BEATRICE the broody duck is causing problems in in the Roman spa city of Bath by holding up a £15 million millennium lottery project. Council chiefs want to re-

store a 2,000-year-old hotspring bathing pool but the maternally-minded mailard has built a nest beside the famous Cross Bath and started laying eggs. While Beatrice nonchalantly warms dutch, a row has hatched over how and when to r

the bird out of the way. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act a wild bird's nest may not be disturbed without a special licence. Voluntary workers looking after the bath firmly believe that the duck should be left in

Members of the Springs' Foundation said they were horrified at a suggestion to call in experts from the Wet-



The Roman bath where the ducks have set up home

lands and Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge to move Beatrice.
But Bath and North East Somerset council wants the duck evicted quickly so that preliminary tests can start and heavy plant moved onto

the site. The baths were closed to bathers in the 1970s. They fell into disrepair but were al-

emergency aid and vital

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Project leaders want Beatrice out of the way so that they can start tests to determine whether the spring water can be made safe for bathing and drinking again.

But the council cannot carry out the tests while the duck and its mate, Arthur, or any other ducks are present because their faeces contaminate the readings.

The six-week deadline for moving in heavy plant equipthat the duck would be ready to hatch its eggs - unless it is

Margaret Stewart, spokes-woman for the foundation, said some staff were prepared to barricade themselves in to prevent Beatrice being driven out and separated from the eggs.

Animal activists thought to be involved earlier this year when netting over the pool - to stop regular visi-tor Beatrice getting in — was slashed

But on Easter Monday the devious duck allegedly bounced up and down on a joint until it gave way and slipped through the £2,000 replacement netting and into

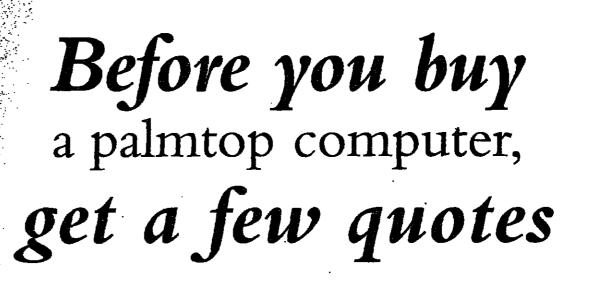
Rhodri Samuel, co-ordina-tor of the Bath Spa revival project, said the problem had been foreseen as the recalcitrant duck had previously nested in the bath.

He said: "We want the duck out. But obviously we would not do anything to harm the bird."



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The broody duck goes to work on the eggs



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The state of the s

● New inquiry into profits ● Concern at 'barrier' to competitors

Are superstores cheating you?

AN INQUIRY into charges of profiteering and anti-competitive practices by supermarkets has raised issues that merit further investigation, the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said his office's nine-month inquiry into the EoO billion supermarket business had been "inconclusive". As a result, the Competition Commission, formerly the Monopolies and Mergers Commissio, has been given at least another year to report to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on whether supermarkers enjoy too much monopoly power and make excessive profits. The inquiry will encompass all companies in Britain with ten or more stores or with more than 600 sq metres of re-

The OFT examined the profits of the four largest supermarket chains - Tesco. Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda over a five-year period from 1993 to 1998. The study took data from 1.630 stores and included an independent evaluation of land and buildings.

tail sales space.

Mr Bridgeman said: "After analysing the profits of the four largest supermarket chains using a range of conventional and specialist economic measures. I have to conclude

HOW THE MARKET LEADERS CHECK OUT OPERATING PROFIT SHARE OF MARKET 1998 (er. VAT) 1998 (%) CAPITALISATION (From Verdict Research) £7.619m Sainsbury 391 £15,496m 5.2 9.6% £7.342m £6,979m 6.8% £2.789m £6,056m 6.7% £1.571m Tesco 600 £16,175m 9.3% £882m £10.751m £147m 1.2% 6.5 £2.367m Carrefour (France) 937 £18,437m .£700m 3.8 £17,381m etro (Sermany) 474 £32,465m £14.817m

that there is a level of profitability here that requires further investigation by the Competition Commission."

Mr Bridgeman said the most important issue was the nature and extent of barriers to new competitors entering the sector. Other areas of concern included the impact of land prices on costs; the intensity of price competition at local, re-gional and national levels; and the nature of relationships between the supermarkets and their suppliers, including agricultural producers.

I beliève there are now significant barriers to new competitors in high-volume grocery retailing in Britain," Mr Bridgeman said. "Sites for

new stores are dwindling and this gives the existing stores an advantage. Planning delays, site development costs and the ability of the largest stores to outbid smaller rivals add to

tors could be expected to have on the behaviour of the current main players."

He was not satisfied that competition between existing

concerned that grocery prices

are often set to match competi-

tors rather than to undercut

them. particularly in catch-

ment areas where consumers

I have to conclude that there is a level of profitability here that requires further investigation?

the problem. This should not be seen as criticism of planning policy, it is simply to state the fact that there are significant barriers to entry and they limit the impact new competi-

markets. I have had concerns for some time that the supermarkets' power may become exploitative and the many responses from suppliers during our inquiry suggests that it is something which needs to be looked at.

The Consumers' Association welcomed the announcement. A spokesman said: "Consumer and competition issues in the supermarket sector are extremely complex and there is an urgent need for an in-formed public debate. There does appear to be evidence that the supermarkets have not been passing savings on to

Spokesmen for the big super-

way said: "We welcome the opportunity to clear the air and are confident that we will get a good result." David Reid, Tesco's deputy chairman, said: 'The Competition Commission will find we champion the

consumers' cause." Janet Nunn, director of food and drink at the British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of retailers, said the referral would allow retailers to prove the sector was competitive and that customers

were reaping the benefits.

A handful of food retailers control almost 50 per cent of the £87 billion-a-year food market, and some retail analysts allege that this has led to the formation of an anti-competirive cartel.

Critics claim that the main chains, including Tesco and Sainsbury, which produced pre-tax profits of more than 1 5 billion between them last year, charge more for goods in areas where they face less competition. Asda is the only major multiple retailer to operate a national price policy. The supermarkets say that the sector is fiercely competitive and that their profits are not out of line

with international standards. A previous OFT investigation of supermarkets in the early 1980s eventually concluded that the companies had no

have a limited choice of supermarket chains said the deci-Loyalty comes at a price

By ROBIN YOUNG

SOME surveys have claimed to show that basic food items can be up to 40 per cent more expensive in this country than in the rest of Europe or the United States, but like-for-like comparisons are notoriously

Other surveys have claimed to show that basic food items are cheaper in Britain than in France or Belgium. The supermarkets say that there cannot be much dissatisfaction with shops as consistently wellused as theirs.

Most recent figures give Tesco with 16 per cent of market share. Sainsbury 13 per cent. and Asda 6 per cent. Safeway has recently lost ground but Somerfield, the fifthlargest company, exceeded ex-

pectations at the beginning of this year by doubling its interim profits and showing a 3.4 per cent increase in likefor-like sales.

Discount chains have not had great success in Britain but they are a lively section of the market, credited with having some effect in reducing the big companies' profit margins. Kwik-Save, which was the leader in the field, was forced

to merge with Somerfield when faced with rapidly diminishing market share, and has been rebranded with higherpriced and better-quality stock.
The heaviest discounters are Aldi, Nette and Lidl, German and Danish companies with about 250 stores each and an

of 3 per cent. In a recent sur-

vey, a fifth of shoppers said

for their main food supplies. estimated total market share

they had used discount stores and rated them best on price. Morrisons, the northern chain whose customers rate it well for price and quality, is seeking to expand. There are also convenience store operators trying to make inroads by opening 24 hours in the hope of attracting customers who

are keener to avoid queues

than to minimise bills. Few consumers show loyalty to any particular supermarket. One in four shoppers told researchers that they would prefer to shop somewhere other than the store they used

Many have loyalty cards for more than one supermarket chain, and a fifth of shoppers said that price was the most important factor in choosing a

M25 murder trio win new appeal

Three men jailed for life for the murder of a motorist on the M25 and a series of robberies will have their cases referred back to the Court of Appeal, the Criminal Cases Review Commission said yesterday. One of the men's solicitors disclosed that a key witness at their trial was paid £10,000 by a national newspaper and £300 by the police.

Michael Davis, Randolph Johnson and Raphael Rowe,

known as the M25 Three, were jailed at the Old Bailey for a series of attacks one night in December 1988, including the murder of Peter Hurburgh. He was dragged from his car at gunpoint and beaten, which led to him suffering a falal heart attack. The accessed had an appeal against conviction dismissed by the Court of Appeal in 1993.

Breast doctor resigns

A doctor who was at the centre of a breast screening scandal has resigned after seeing an advance copy of an official re-port. John Brennan, a consultant radiologist, was in charge of breast screening at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, which failed to identify 24 cancer cases. Dr Brennan resigned within hours of reading the final report by a disciplinary panel into the case, in which nine patients died. In a statement he rejected criticism in the report of his clinical competence.

Wildfowlers WW2 bomb angry at ban empties pier

The Government was accused of rushing through a ban on the use of lead shot for wildfowling without fully consulting the 20.000 people who take part in the sport. The ban was unexpectedly announced yesterday.

Shooting groups accept that the ban is needed to stop birds being poisoned by the lead pellets, which they eat off the ground. But the British Association for Shooting and Conservation complained that it would have little time to advise its members on alternative shot. led to safety from Britain's longest seaside pier yesierday after fishermen

dredged up an unexploded World War Two mine half a mile off the beach. Police ordered a full-scale evacuation of the crowded pier at Southend, Essex. when the unexploded mine was brought to the surface in the nets of a fishing boat. Seafront roads were closed to traffic while an army bomb disposal team was called in from Colchester

garrison, 40 miles away.

Mobile phone review

Radiation watchdogs are to take a new look at the health effects of mobile phones. The inquiry was launched yesterday by Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, after evidence from Bristol University that mobile phones may cause localised brain heating. Ms Jowell asked the National Radiological Protection Board to review all the research. There has been no consistent evidence suggesting risk to health but there is continuing concern about the possibility:" she said.

Not so super highway

Two thirds of Britons have never used the Internet or sent electronic mail, according to a survey by NOP. The West Country has the lowest Internet usage at fewer than one in four people. The greatest usage was in London, where three out of five have used it at some stage. Only 28 per cent of those questioned could define the Internet as a global computer network. The study showed that just under 50 per cent of men had used the Internet. against 34 per cent of women.

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Allergy sufferers urge more caution on food

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

JOHN PAGE thought that a cheese and cress sandwich could not possibly ignite his body's severe reaction to shellfish. But just as he was about to take a bite, the caution of the allergy-sufferer overcame him and he checked inside the sandwich. He found three prawns — enough to cause a

serious allergic reaction.

Stories of carelessness in some parts of the food industry were given by 28 teenagers with life-threatening allergies who met in London yesterday, Mr Page, 18. of Chingford, said: "You look at food that should be perfectly safe but you think that you can't eat it in case a prawn has got in there. There can be quite a lot of cross-contamination."

The results of food contamination or incorrect labelling can be fatal. In Britain lasi year a 19-year-old died after eating a takeaway curry that contained nuts, even though he had asked for a nut-free dish. A 36-year-old West Yorkshire woman died in 1987 after eating airline food that con-tained nuts.

Sometimes the allergy trig-ger is less easy to spot than a prawn. Teenagers yesterday said that food cooked in oil, such as chips, could also produce a reaction if other food containing nuts had already been cooked in the oil.

In people allergic to nuts, even body lotions and shampoos can cause a reaction because they can contain nut oil. David Reading, director of the Anaphylaxis |severe aller-

gic reaction] Association, said: Things have improved tremendously in the past few years and pre-packaged foods are pretty good in terms of la-belling." But he said restaurants and takeaway foods could still cause problems. "If you eat in a restaurant you have to be pretty direct and ask questions ... you have to say that if you cat nuts, for instance, it could kill you."

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PROVEN THE WORLD OVER

Women jockeys fail punter in long run

After a decade, gambler looks set to

lose chance of £128,000 from novelty bet, reports Paul Wilkinson

AN UNLIKELY bet made a Even the offer of a £50,000 share of his winnings to a fall at the starting line of the Grand National this weekend. Only a late run by a woman jockey can bring Ray Woodcock his long-prized £128,000

For a total stake of £400, he bet that by the millennium Cliff Richard would receive a knighthood, a British heavyweight would win a world title and a woman would ride a National winner. The first two came through, bringing him Ell.000. Lennox Lewis took the WBC heavyweight championship in 1992, and the Queen created Sir Cliff in her birthday honours four years ago.

Unfortunately for Mr Woodcock, women jockeys have let him down. Their best result in the National was in 1994 when Rosemary Henderson, a 51-year-old amateur, came fifth on her own horse, the 100-l outsider Fiddlers Pike. Last night, when tomorrow's 32 riders were declared, there was not a woman in sight.

LINKS

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trainer or owner prepared to give a woman jockey a chance failed to find a taker

Under the event's rules, a late replacement can be

named up to 45 minutes before the start through injury or other emergency. Mr Woodcock, 55, a civil engineer from Halifax, West Yorkshire, said: "I'm desperate. At the time I placed the bet there were a few lady jockeys who were quite good and I thought it was only a matter of time. Time is run-ning out and I really don't think there will be a lady jockey, but if someone takes up my offer it will certainly make the race a lot more interesting."

His wife, Gwen, 50, said: "He is a very good gambler who rarely loses because he is so scientific. We will all be watching and hoping on Saturday but I don't think it will come off in the end."

Ladbrokes gave Mr Wood-cock odds of 4-1 against Cliff Richard's knighthood, 10-1 against a British world heavyweight champion and 33-1 against a woman National winner in a combination of doubles and a treble. They agreed to pay if any two happened before 2000, and more if all three occurred. A spokesman said: "Nobody has got so



Woodcock: offered a £50,000 share of win

close on a novelty bet to winning this amount of money. This bet is uniquely diverse in the history of British off-course bookmaking."

Of the country's 214 licensed professional jump jockeys, only four are women, and only one, Sophia Mitchell, has ridden the 15 winners on British courses necessary to qualify for the National. She said: "1 would jump at the chance to ride in the National, but I don't think I will be holding

my breath waiting for an offer to come. I am riding at Hereford that afternoon and Woiverhampton in the evening but if I did get an offer of a ride in the National I think I'd somehow get there. However, I don't think it is likely. Riders in the National will have ridden their mounts on a number of previous occasions and know them well. Barring a late injury, no one gets a National ride out of the blue." Mitchell, 26, who lives near

the racing stable centre of Lambourn in Berkshire, has ridden 39 winners, including one on the flat, since she turned professional four years ago. At 5ft lin and only 7st 12oz, many trainers regard her as too light for an endurance event such as the 41/2-mile Grand National. "Many trainers still believe we are not strong enough for riding over fences. I totally disagree. After all, women are among the best all over the world in other equine events like eventing and showjump-

Racing, pages 46,47





The Saturday Times

National was off three years before history books say

BY RUSSELL JENKINS, NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY librarian has unset historians of the Grand National with a claim that the famous steeplechase came under starter's orders. three years earlier than is thought. John Pinfold also daims that Captain Becher should be remembered as the winning jockey of the first race as well as for taking cover under the brook that bears

his name. The honours board for the Aintree course records the first winner of the Grand National as Lottery on February 26, 1839. The race, then called the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase, is widely accepted as the first real National. It was preceded by two races at nearby

Maghull. However, Mr Pinfold, 46, librarian of Rhodes House. Oxford, begs to differ after spending six years on re-search at the British Library and the Picton Library in Liverpool. He claims in a book that the first Grand National took place three years earlier and that the two races at Maghull actually took place at

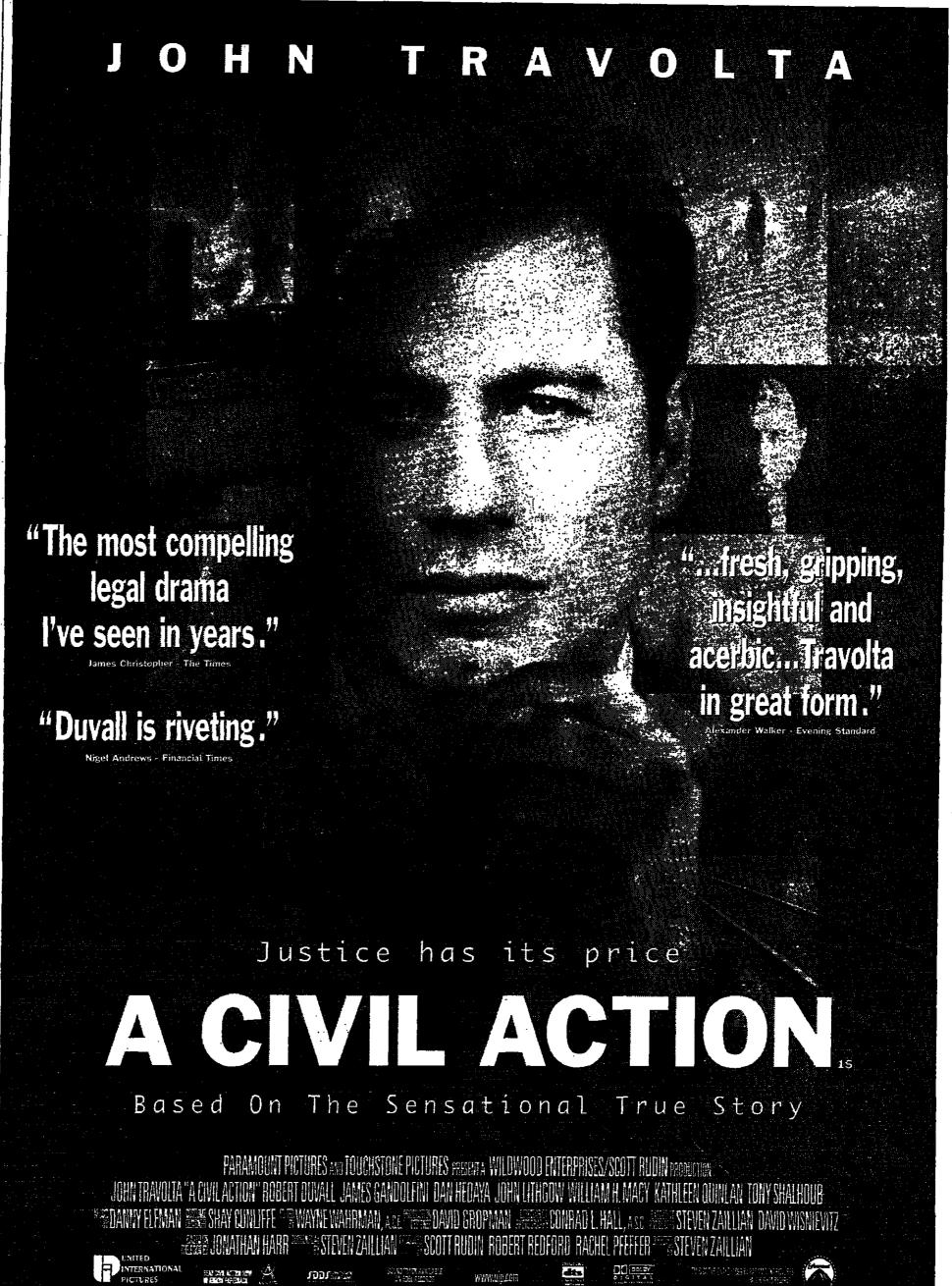
According to the revised version, the first Grand National was run on February 29, 1836, and was won by The Duke, owned by Mr Sirdefield, the landlord of the George pub in Crosby.

The winning jockey was Captain Becher, who went on to fame, if not fortune, three years later. Mr Pinfold, who says he used only original sources for his research, believes that Captain Becher should now be accorded his rightful place in the history books. He said: "I hope the authorities will amend the official record accordingly."

The author unveiled his book, Gallant Sport, The Authentic History of Liverpool Races and the Grand Na-tional (Portway Press, £26), at Aintree to a flutter of irritation from those authorities.

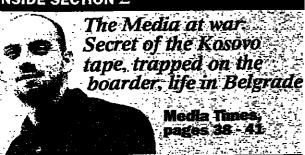
Reg Green, who wrote the accepted history. A Race Apart, is in no doubt that his rival's theories are wrong. "Don't you think if Captain Becher had won the first-ever Grand National his family would have mentioned it?" he said. "The facts are that there was a steeplechase at Aintree in 1836 won by The Duke, but no way could that be called a

Grand National." Nigel Payne, an Aintree official. said: "I have no prob-lem with 1839. We have absolutely no reason to dispute it. The early races were simply not Grand Nationals."



AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM TODAY CHECK LOCAL PRESS

Inside section 2





Blair forgets Scots have long memories

By JASON ALLARDYCE SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

IFTHERE was anywhere less appropriate for a London-based politician such as the Prime Minister to pick a fight with Scottish neuonalists, Ross MacKenzie could not think of it.

Few names in Scotland's bloody history evoke as much emotion as Cuiloden where, in 1746, the government's troops crushed Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite rising. It sparked the clearance of thousands of Highlanders from their land and ended any prospect of Scotland becoming an independent country again.

That did not seem to worry Tony Blair and his entourage yesterday when they chose Culloden for his first Scottish parliament election visit.

Mr MacKenzie, who manages the Culloden visitor centre on the battlefield, was not afraid to admit that the PM's visit for a question and answers session in a local school had made his blood boil. "He would not be welcome here on the battlefield and I would hope he would respect that. My heart missed a beat when I heard "he said

beat when I heard," he said.
"The name Culloden still has resonance across Scotland and particularly in the Highlands and this is probably an unthinking example of London Millbank control. They just don't understand what it means to trost Scots." A press

CULLODEN: A GAME OF ONE HALF

What was it? The last real battle fought on British soil, on April 16, 1746, between a well-drilled Hanoverian army under the Duke of Cumberland, portly second son of George III, and the ragged remains of the Highland force under Prince Charles Edward Stuart, who was too drunk or too scared to lead his general to be conflict.

Where was It? On a dolorous moor three miles east of inverness, perfect flat ground for the disciplined army.

What was it all about? Bonnie Prince Charlie, heavily romanticised but in truth an effete aristocrat raised in Italy, dreamed of restoring the Stuart throne usurped by William of Orange at the Boyne in 1690. He railied the mainly Cathotic Highlanders and marched them as far south as Derby where, like Scottish forwards presented with a goal opportunity, they lost their bottle and turned back.

Who wen? Well, the Scots didn't. They were put to flight in 40 minutes; they didn't stay to play the second half. Culloden marked the end of the old feudal Highland clan system, and "Butcher" Cumberland followed up his victory with a nuthless bout of ethnic cleansing, ordering his men to loth Highlanders and burn their homes. Bagpipes, Scots dress and other symbols of nationhood were mercilessly suppressed. Over the following century clan lands were given over to southern sheep farmers, driving thousands of Highlanders to the New World.

So why is Charile such a remantic figure? The Scots have long memories and a genius for celebrating defeat; just look at the World Cup. There is an equal genius for recovery, in less than 50 years, Scotland had become a powerhouse of invention and European intellectual thought, with men such as Adam Smith, David Hume, James Watt, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns.

aide of Mr Blair could not understand what all the fuss was about. Speaking earlier in the day at RAF Lossiemouth where Mr Blair met families of Gulf servicemen, he said: "It's neither here nor there. You would have to have a long

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shrugged off if it was an isolated incident.

The truth is that the normally sure-footed Premier has a problem with Scotland. His granny came from Glasgow's Govan, he was schooled in Fettes and a lot of people seem to want to like him. A recent

EVERY BATHROOM SUITE HALF PRICE

opinion poll found that Scots thought he was doing the most effective job in government. However, his advisers and a mischievous press corps have a habit of tripping him up.

Mr Blair did not do himself any favours during the 1997 general election campaign when he compared the powers of the proposed Scottish parlia-

eignty would rest with him.

Deep down he seems also to resent the fact that, in spite of Labour honouring its commitment to deliver a Scottish parliament, the Scots seem a

ment with an English parish

council and said that sover-

pretty ungrateful lot.

No sooner is the new power-house/parish council on the statute books than support for the SNP and Scottish independence is on the rise again. Mr Blair needs Scottish votes which return about 50 MPs to Westminster and he just wishes that they would give devolution a chance.

While Downing Street insists that Mr Blair is the party's biggest asset in Scotland, there is also a hostility among many voters who believe he should stay out of Scotlish affairs. Nell MacKenzie, a taxi driver from Inverness where Mr Blair avoided doing a walkabout, said: "Donald Dewar says his party is not run by London Labour but.if so, why is Tony Blair up campaigning? What's he doing

here when there are more

pressing problems like Kosovo

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The defeat of the Scots at Culloden ended dreams of independence for 200 years

We were to blame for 1997 rout, say Tories

By Magnus Linklater

THE Scottish Conservatives launched their manifesto yesterday in original style — by issuing an apology.

David McLetchie, the party's leader in Scotland, admitted that the Tories' mistakes at the 1997 general election had led to their losing every Westminster seat they held there. "The people told us what they thought," he said. "We got it wrong. They said we were out of touch. We didn't listen. Our decisions and policies had London stamped all over them, with little relevance or sympathy for the needs of the Scot-

tish people."

But he insisted that since then the party had listened and learnt, holding more than 500 meetings and hearing the views of 15,000 people. The result was a radical set of proposals that had been "made in Scotland" rather than dictated from Conservative Central Office. A set of seven commitments included a pledge not to raise taxes, promises to abolish university tuition fees, to guarantee full-time mursery places for four-year-olds, introduce "modern matrons" into hospitals, and lift the beef-on-

the-bone ban.

The most radical proposal of all would take schools out of local authority control and hand them over to local school boards, answerable to their communities. Their members would include local councillors, head teachers and representatives of individual school toards, including parents. They would be funded directly by the Scottish parliament.

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities riposted that all the evidence suggested that while parents wanted to be consulted about their schools, they did not want to be involved in running them. "To separate them off would be a backward step," said a spokesman. "It would lose out on the holistic approach that local authorities can provide."

However, other education proposals, such as the abolition of tuition fees, are likely to draw more enthusiastic support, and place the Scottish Tories well to the left of the party in London.

Admitting that the party was now on a "policy tangent" from Lundon, Mr McLetchie said: "That is what devolution

CORRECTION

Giles Radice is the Labour MP for Durham North, not Conservative, as wrongly described in the letters page of April 7



McLetchie said party had fistened and learnt

is all about. We are right to be different, we are in the vanguard of policies, but we believe they will strike a chord
with our colleagues down
south. Who knows, they might
adopt some our ideas once
they see them tried out here."

He repeated his controver-

He repeated his controversial remark that "the jury is out on the United Kingdom" and pledged that the Conservative Party in Scotland to make the new parliament work within the United Kingdom.

in the United Kingdom.

These are heady days for the Scottish Tories. Freed of the responsibility that goes with power, or even the distant prospect of it, they feel able to say almost anything, even if it means abandoning ideas that were once sacrosanct. "The status quo is not an option." said one candidate briskly.

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND

Home rule 'good for economy'

Independence would lead as a stronger Scottish coone on a report on the day the Scottish National Party launched its election manifesto. The David Prime Institute a non-political think-bank, said that a devolved Edinburgh partiament was unlikely to strengthen the economy, due to its limited powers over viconomic policy.

focuses on health, education, housing and business. The party's commitment to holding a referendam on independence within the parhament's first term was last in a list of M principles. The party had promised to release a "twin brack", mani-

in a list of 14 princities.
In a list of 14 princities.
The party had promised to release a "win brack" manifesto outlining policies for a devolved and independent Scotland to let writers compare and contrast the two.

7.77

Quote of the day

campaign trail of Edinbargh:

The Tory manifesto is the longest a pology in history, the SNP used to be right wing and now they are left wing and with Labour you from the Knowlif you are getting old Labour or new Labour. But you can depend on the Liberal Democrats. With us you get what you see

NHS challenge

ISSUED TO DEWAT
Donald Dewar, he Scottish
Secretary, was challenged
about pay rises in the Naional Health Service durional Health Service durional Science, Paul McCross,
its Science, Paul McCross,
its a murating assistant from
Wishaw Lanarkshire, told
life Dewar that the lack of
money available was conributing to low morate

McLeish admits

LONGON COUNTY
The Sentist National Party
accused Labour of being
controlled from Lindon alter the Scotnish Office minister the Scotnish Office minister Henry Med 18th 5020 on
BPC25 Methodogue, under
pressure from lexicity Pastions that Extra partiament
of the Scotnish partiament
contint not take a different
miley for from that of the
mely at Westminister.

AGENDA

Teday: Tony Biair will take part in a phone-in at Moray Firth radio this morning and open a new A&E ward at. Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Charles Kernnedy will be the main speaker at the Liberal Democrats' press conference in Edinburgh. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will talk in Glasgow for Labous. The Green Party will launch its manifesto in Edinburgh. Flora Hyslop, SNP housing spokeswoman, will outline the party's housing policy in

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Cot collapse caused death of baby girl

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

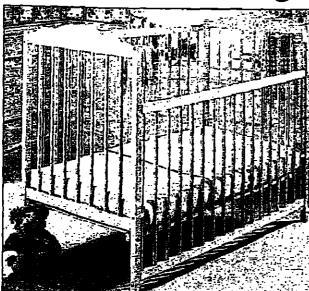
THE collapse of a cot from Mothercare was to blame for the death of a nine-month-old haby, an inquest has been told. Alexandra Harvey choked to death when the side of her cot fell across her neck as she

played in it.
The girl was found unconscious by her mother, Catherine, who had left her to prepare breakfast. The baby had stopped breathing and was blue in the face, and her mother tried to revive her before the ambulance took her to hospital. The baby was transferred to a specialist unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, 50 miles away, and put on a life-support machine. Afer six days the doctors told the mother that there was no chance of recovery and the ma-

chine was switched off. The cot, a £79.99 Epsom model, had been bought by Miss Harvey's parents when their daughter was pregnant. the inquest was told.

It was assembled by the child's father, Robert Smith. 25, who works in a timber yard. He carefully followed the instructions for putting together the flat-pack.

The inquest, in Colchester on Wednesday, heard from an expert witness - Laurence Liff, of ICE Ergonomics who told the coroner that the collapse of the cot had been nothing to do with way it had been assembled. He said it



The self-assembly cot conforms to safety standards

everyone to be aware of the

dangers. What happened to my beloved daughter can hap-

mother to got through the ago-

ny I have been through: her

death has destroyed me."
Miss Harvey added: "Bob

knew what he was doing and

ward. I had chosen that partic-

ular cot because Mothercare

have a good reputation and

the cot had a British Stand-

The instructions on the best-

selling cot said it was suitable

for children up to four years

old or a weight of up to 18 kilo-grams (39lb). "Alex was much

ards Institution Kitemark."

was perfectly straightfor-

"I wouldn't want any other

pen to someone else's baby.

design fault that meant it was not strong enough to stay together under the weight of the baby. Mothercare, which was rep-

resented by a lawyer at the inquest, was not called to give ev-

The coroner, Malcolm Weir. recorded a verdict of accidental death. "We are not here to apportion blame for the tragic incident but to find out the facts behind Alexandra's death. All I can do is let the manufacturers of the product know of the facts of this case and leave the ball in their park," Dr Weir said.

Miss Harvey, 21, said yesterwas principally because of a day, after the inquest: "I want said Miss Harvey, who has not received an apology from Mothercare. The Coroner's Officer, Ian Hunter, said yesterday: "The cot complied to the British standard. If the British standard isn't satisfactory, that's an-

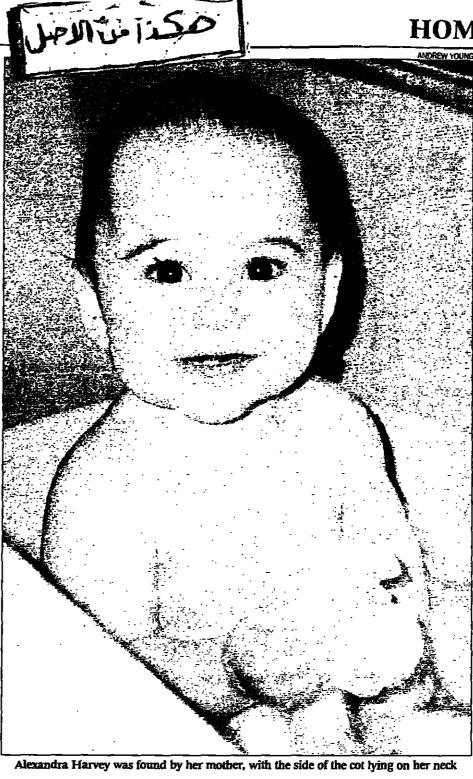
other matter." Mothercare said in a statement: "The outcome of tests concluded that the circumstances surrounding the death of Alexandra Harvey appear to be consistent with the expla-

nation that was provided by

her parents. 'it would seem that a series of unfortunate factors came together to produce a tragic result, the death of a baby, with no one person or factor to blame. Mothercare's thoughts are with Alexandra's parents at this very difficult time."

The firm said the cot conformed to safety standards and that trading standards officers had been involved in the inquiry into the death and were taking no further action.

Mothercare cots include advice to "check regularly that all bolts and fasterings are tight". As an added precaution since Alex's death last November, Mothercare said it had added a "very visible" warning to the the mattress base of all new cots which reads: "Warning — failure to tighten could cause the sides, ends or base to collapse. Your child may be injured by falling components or become trapped be-



NEWS IN BRIEF

Snowdon railway set for OK

Environmental groups are close to losing their fight to stop the rebuilding of the former Welsh Highland Railway through Snowdonia National Park. John Prescott. the Environment and Transport Secretary, said that he was minded to approve the 21-mile route, against the recommendation of a public inquiry inspector. He is asking the Fiestiniog Railway Com-pany for a detailed survey of rock faces near the Aberglaslyn tunnels to ensure that work does not cause rock fails. The route would run from Dinas, south of Caernarfon, through the national park to Porthmadog.

Cider with Dan

The pub featured by Laurie Lee in his book Cider with Rosie has been sold to a friend of the late author. Lee was a regular at the 300-year-old Woolpack Inn at Slad, Gloucestershire, which has been bought by Dan Chadwick.

Black stroke risk

Black people in Britain are twice as likely to have a stroke than white people, with Caribbean immigrants having the highest death rate. The reason is likely to be genetic or lifestyle, according to a report in the British Medical Journal.

Water firm fined

South West Water has been fined £5,000 with £5,529 costs after admitting supplying water unfit for human consumption. Cullompton magistrates were told that discoloured water was supplied to villages in mid Devon in October 1997.

The crying game

Courses for town criers have opened at a school in Crystal Palace, South London. The organisers expect a surge in demand for town criers because of the millennium celebrations. The students include a former sergeant major.

Phone bill revealed suicide wife was having an affair

By A CORRESPONDENT

A COMPANY director grieving for his wife, who had committed suicide, learnt from her mobile telephone bill that she had been having an affair. Ken Montgomery, 40, told an inquest yesterday that he had had no idea his wife, Carolette, was being unfaithful.

called in to investigate her death moved back to Britain from Dubai

found a mystery number on her telephone bill. They traced it to a businessman who, after being told that Mrs Montgomery, 41, had killed herself, admitted having an affair with her. He had seen her during busi-

ness trips in London. The inquest in Cardiff was told that Mr and Mrs Montgomery had been married for ten years and had The inquest was told that police a five-year-old son, Kenneth. They

last year and bought a £400,000 house at Penarth, near Cardiff.

They had been due to spend a weekend sailing together in Portsmouth, but Mrs Montgomery had stayed at home after an argument about money. Two days later, when Mr Montgomery returned, he had found his wife dead in a furne-filled car in the garage. She had drunk half a bottle of whisky.

Mr Montgomery said: "I just

couldn't understand why she had done it. We had a new £400,000 home and the night before I went to Portsmouth we had had a lovely night out with friends. I couldn't believe she had killed herself just because of the heated discussion we had had."

It was only later, after he received the mobile telephone bill, that he began to suspect there was another motive for his wife's death. "It was a

real kick in the guts when I found out about the affair. It was like my wife was leading a double life away from myself and our son. It has been traumatic and has deeply affected my son and myself. Now all I want to do is close the chapter and get on

with the job of bringing up Kenneth." Lawrence Addicott, the Cardiff Coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. After the hearing Detective Constable Mike Pitt, who investigated Mrs

Montgomery's death, said that the same number kept cropping up on the mobile telephone bill. When I spoke to this chap it turned out that he had met Mrs Montgomery a couple of months previously and struck up a relationship with her.

"She took to phoning him constantly and they met a couple of times in London. He was obviously very fond of her and was horrified about what had happened to her "





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Fresh spy claims hit Zhu's **US** visit

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

FRESH allegations that China stole top-secret nuclear weap-ons research from the United States in order to improve Beijing's neutron bomb placed a new strain on an already tense visit to the US by Zhu Rongji. the Chinese Prime Minister.

The new spying scandal, the second in as many months. came as China and the US struggled to clinch a trade deal that would pave the way for Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organisation.

In 1996 US intelligence sources reported information from a trusted Chinese agent who said that the Chinese intelligence service was boasting that vital US weapons data had been obtained and applied to China's neutron bomb programme. The spy said the secret research had been leaked in 1995.

DISSIDENT ARREST

Beijing: With an unerring instinct to do the wrong thing at the wrong time, Chinese police detained a dissident for "endangering state security" just as Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, was arriving in the US (James Pringle writes).

The Information Centre of Human Rights in Hong Kong said that Fu Shen, a human rights activist based in Shaanxi province, had intended to pay respects at the grave of Hu Yaobang, a moderate commun in advance of the tenth anniversary of Hu's death on April 15.

The White House has hitherto maintained that there is no evidence of Chinese nuclear espionage during the Clinton presidency, but The New York Times reported that Sandy Berger, now the US National Security Adviser, was told of the possible new theft of material relating to neutron bomb production in April 1996. The new scandal could not come at a more embarrassing

time for Mr Zhu and President Clinton as they attempt to paper over issues as America's bulging trade deficit with Chi-na, human rights violations and allegations of illicit Chinese funding for the 1996 Clinton presidential campaign. The two leaders were due to attend an informal dinner together last night.

In a welcome speech to the Chinese leader yesterday, Mr Clinton pointedly referred to the "differences" between the United States and China. In response, Mr Zhu said he saw no area of disagreement that could not be settled through "friendly consultations".

The fresh spying charges emerged as Chinese and US of-ficials attempted to broker a deal that would prepare the way for China's admission to the WTO, which has been Beijing's goal for the past 13 years. US officials said yesterday that a full agreement now seemed "unlikely".

The neutron bomb, developed by the US in the 1970s, uses enhanced radiation to kill people while leaving buildings unaffected. China is believed to have built a neutron bomb in the 1980s, using research sto-len from the US, but found it defective during tests. The new allegations suggest that the information stolen in 1995 had allowed China to iron out problems in their bomb design.



Solitary Guitarist, by Vasili Perov, one of the works stolen from the Russian State Museum in St Petersburg this week in what police believe is part of a campaign of art theft to order from major Russian collections

Thieves plunder Russian museums to order

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

THE theft of two paintings from the Russian Museum in St Petersburg this week is part of a new trend of stealing to order, experts believe. Solitary Guitarist and a sketch for the painting Troika, both by Vasili Perov, a 19th century artist, were taken in a dawn raid on Tuesday.

There has been a surge of interest in art and antiques among the new rich in the past decade." said Aleksandr Shevchuk deputy head of the cultural department of the Moscow police. "Thefts to order are always extremely difficult to uncover because so many people are involved.

Art theft in St

Petersburg alone has skyrocketed in the past few years, from 18 crimes in 992 to 178 in 1997. In 1994 four men broke into the St Petersburg Library and took \$300 million (£188 million) worth of manuscripts including medieval European. ancient Chinese. Mongolian, Tibetan and

Hebrew scripts. Twelve people were arrested in connection with the crime which was believed to have been ordered by an Israeli collector, though he was never identified.
Vladimir Gusev, the

director of the Russian Museum, believes the paintings stolen this week were ordered by a private collector, but says the works are so well known it will not be possible to display them. The best thing he can do is to bring the things back

anonymously," he said. Russia's museums and galleries lack the funds for adequate anti-theft systems Only the Hermitage. housed in the winter nalace of the tsars in St Petersburg, has invested in Western-style security.

WORLD SUMMARY

'Human fly' sues TV show over trap

New York: A Norwegian daredevil known as the "Human Fly is suing a television pro-gramme for \$2.25 million (£1.4 million) for betraying him to police after he parachuted off the World Trade Centre. Thor Alex Kappfiell was arrested last month after completing an unprecedented hat-trick of city skyscrapers. Earlier jumps were from the Empire State and Chrysler buildings.

Mr Kappfjell, 32, alleges that the syndicated television show Extra, which had bought videotape of his stunts, delayed payment and told police where he was so it could film his arrest. "Police marched in and Extra was there shooting it," Mr Kappfjell said.
When he asked the producer

to put up bail, he was allegedly told: "I do not pay criminals." Mr Kappfjell walked free six days later, having agreed to do a week's community service.

Shift to right

Klagenfurt: Jörg Haider, leader of the far-right Freedom Party, was elected Governor of Carinthia, the Austrian APA agency said. The party won 42 per cent of the state's vote in elections last month. (AFP)

Amnesty denied

Cape Town: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission denied amnesty to the killers of Chris Hani, leader of the Communist Party and seen, until his death in 1993, as

Tehran release

Tehran: German businessman Helmut Hofer. 57, sentenced to death for having sexual relations with an Iranian woman, is to be released pending a final decision. He has served two years in jail. (AFP)

Timor backlash

Dili: Thousands of anti-independence militiamen, some accused of massacres, have vowed to step up their fight against separatists who want East Timor to break away from Indonesia. (AP)

Rebel shoot-out

Freetown: Thirty-one people have been killed, including 14 civilians, in fighting between Sierra Leonean rebels and Guinean troops of the Ecomog intervention force near Kambia, it was reported. (AFP)

US jets hit Iraq

Washington: American F18 aircraft have bombed a missile site in southern Iraq. The US Central Command said the missile site on the al-Faw peninsula was a threat to shipping traffic in the Gulf. (AFP)

Missile threat

Delhi: Beijing's Military Acaderrry has recommended China redeploy medium- and longrange missiles against India after its nuclear tests last year, it was reported. (Reuters)

Gun law targeted

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'Bronx rapist' confesses after police kill suspect

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

POLICE have arrested the suspected "Bronx rapist" whose attacks on as many as 51 women transformed the political landscape in New York.

Isaac Jones, 38, a night office cleaner, reportedly confessed after he was arrested outside a pawn shop where his girlfriend had tried to get cash or jewellery taken from one of the rapist's victims.

In February, during the massive manhunt for the serial rapist, four Street Crimes Unit officers killed Amadou Diallo. an unarmed West African immigrant, in a hail of gunfire, provoking daily demonstra-tions and throwing into doubt the political future of Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor.

Mr Jones has been charged with four rapes, but is believed to have assaulted as many as 51 women in 39 separate incidents over the past six years.

Police made the arrest after a woman walked into a pawn shop in the South Bronx with jewellery stolen from two victims of a double rape on Valentine's Day. Because she gave a false name, police stationed a female undercover agent in the shop to await her return. When she came back, two months later, a waiting squad swooped on Mr Jones as he sat outside in a car. He was identified from the same police sketch that bore a superficial resemblance to Mr Diallo, shot dead about a mile from

Mr Jones's home. Police questioned Mr Jones for hours before he confessed. telling detectives that he started raping women because he was himself raped by a

shocked to learn that many of

stranger when aged seven. Co-workers described him charming and were Hillary Clinton next year.

floors in Manhattan sky-"He was always smiling, laughing and giggling," said Stephanie Wright, 48, a night-

the rapes took place between

4am and 5am, after he had fin-

ished a night shift polishing

shift secretary at a law firm where he worked. "He was sweet. He made me laugh." Howard Safir, the police commissioner, said Mr Jones had raped one mother in front of her child. "This is one of the highest numbers of serial

rapes." he said. More than 1,000 demonstrators, including Hollywood stars and Washington politicians, have been arrested during protests against the shoot-ing of Mr Diallo. The furore has put in doubt a possible New York bid by Mr Giuliani for a US Senate seat against

Boston: Gun club patrons are

suing for the right to shoot at images of real people, including Hitler, during target practice, an action banned for some clubs by a new law. (AP)

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Furore not my fault, says dancer

Viviana Durante is trying to mend fences after a flare-up at the

Royal Ballet, Dalya Alberge reports

VIVIANA DURANTE, the ballerina who apparently stormed out of rehearsals with the Royal Ballet and refused to dance with her partner, Bruce Sansom, yesterday attempted to salvage her career with the company.

Denying that she was to blame for rift. Durante insisted that she had not screamed but cried when she fell during a complex duet, and that it was Sansom who had refused to continue to dance with her. The ballerina's version of events contradicted reports that she had exploded with rage during rehearsals for Manon and pulled out of the company's Japanese tour. She is said to have insulted Sansom, dismissing him as unfit to partner her even though they have danced together many times. Insiders say that he is placed and gentlemanly.

The Royal Ballet, whose school Durante joined at the age of 10, had issued an unusually strong statement claiming that she had "withdrawn from the Japanese tour because of irreconcilable differences". The company used the same form of words in 1995 when Sir Anthony Dowell, the Royal Ballet director, sacked the Hungarian-born Zoltan Solymosi, who had been brought in to partner Darcey Bussell.

) right

Avrig Haider §

in Green

ie thre

Although there was widespread disbelief at the latest news, several people described Durante - an Italan born performer adored by her audiences as one of the world's leading dancers - as a hothead whose passion on stage has tended to spill over into real life. Adding to the physical and mental pressures of being a world-class ballerina is the fact that her years at the top are now running out: she is 31.

It did not go unnoticed yesterday - that she was due to perform Anastasia, a ballet about a neurotic woman, in New York with the American Ballet Theatre in May. Manon, which she was to have performed with the Royal Ballet in Japan, is the story of a woman whose impetuous character brings about her

"It was Bruce who said he would not dance with me, not the other way around," Durante told the London Evening Standard yesterday. I would have been happy to go on the tour." She did, however, admit she had become upset after San-som had let her fall heavily but that

she had cried rather than shouted. She added: "I didn't pull out of the tour. After the row I had with Bruce, I had agreed to dance with him again but obviously Sir Anthony wasn't happy and took my

Manon shows away from me." It is not the first time that her discontent with the company has emerged: there have been reports over the years that she was critical of its running and wished to advance her career elsewhere.

Victoria Todd, former director of the Council for Dance Education and Training and current director of the National Campaign for the Arts, expressed sadness at the news. "Nerves are raw," she said, referring to recent months in which the Royal Ballet was facing strike action and an uncertain future. "It was only a matter of time before something like this happened." She added that Durante's departure would be "a great loss" to the company. "Everything must be done to

keep her."
Christopher Bannerman, the chairman of Dance UK, the organisation representing the dance pro-fession, said: "It is very sad when these things happen.

Concern was voiced yesterday about the possible effect on Durante's career. Relatively little has been heard of Solymosi since he parted company with the Royal Ballet. It was reported at the time that he had fallen out with Sir Anthony after criticising the choreography. As with Durante, the Hungarian's "volatile" dancing style was said to be matched by his off-stage



Viviana Durante and Bruce Sansom in the Royal Ballet's production of The Dream: the partnership may now be over

Disney bows to **Catholic** pressure

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck as subversive angels trying to sneak back into Heaven has been rejected by the Walt Disney studio as potentially offensive to Catholics.

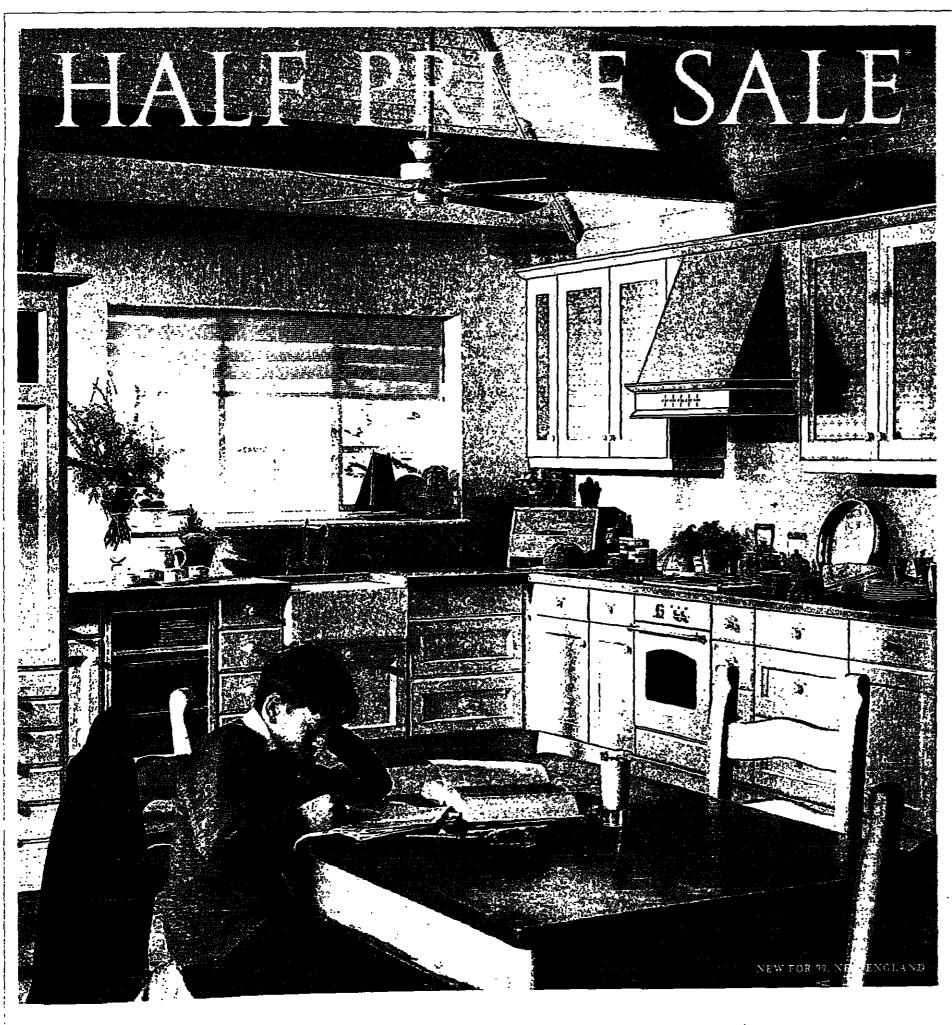
Dogma features a descendant of Jesus who works in an abortion clinic, and Alanis Morissette, the pop singer, in the role of God. The script, which also depicts
Joseph and Mary having sex, was condemned yesterday by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights as bigoted and

The film was shown recently to Disney executives who deemed it "inappropriate" for the company as it seeks to re-establish its "family friendly" status after years of attacks from religious

groups. The decision is a blow to Miramax, the Disney subsidiary that triumphed on Oscar night with Shakespeare in Love and Life is Beautiful. Having championed *Dogma* as a well-meaning satire on religion, the New York-based company is now expected to pay up to \$11 million to buy the film outright, even though it reportedly cost only \$5 million to make. "We intend to work with a distributor that shares our vision of the film
... as broad entertainment." Harvey Weinstein, the Miramax

chairman, told The New York Disney has in recent years fallen foul of both Camolic and Baptist groups, often because of

cutting edge Miramax releases among them *Priest*, the British film about a gay Catholic pastor that was released in the US in 1994 to a chorus of pickets and protests. Disney is also accused of operating "gay-friendly" employment policies.



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COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT



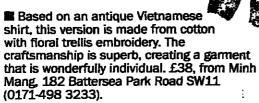
"Using varying shades of off-white in panels, squares, stripes and blocks is, as far as I'm concerned, the dernier cri of chic"



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Objects of desire

Chanel's new powder looks fantastic on the dressing table. Housed in a rectagular opaque glass bottle, the brush cleverly twists on to the top, creating an elegant blusher brush. £20, Powder Light by Chanel, available from department stores (0171-493 3836).





The power of posh paint In the absence of any innate

f you have a talent for extravagance, you will know how versatile this particular gift can be. Whereas dexterity at the harp does not necessarily translate into nimble fingers at the Nintendo, extravagance can leap from one retail category to another with the ease and speed of nits in a nursery class.

Six months ago, when I moved into my first flat, I knew nothing of the existence of designer paint. I could recite the name of every major store in New Bond Street but I had never heard of Paint Library

In this pre-diluvian state I bought a five-litre tub of B&Q white matt emulsion and saw no reason why I should not splash it across the length and breadth of my flat. First, however, it was necessary to strip the floral 1970s wallpaper coat-ed in baby-blue emulsion, and by the time this was complete I had seen the light.

Today I would no sooner do a B&O whitewash than fill my freezer with economy burgers. drink Asti Spumante or laugh at Jim Davidson's jokes.

White paint, indeed any paint, now presents itself as an ethical dilemma. They could feature it on The Moral Maze and it would not seem out of place. Can it ever, in any circumstances, be right to spend £24 on a 2.5-litre tub of paint when you can buy the same amount of Dulux for £12.99?

You can reason that designer paint is very new Labour - No 10 has reportedly been redeco-rated in Paint Library (£24 for 2.5 litres of matt emulsion); you can tell yourself that Kylie Minogue has Sophie Rose on her walls (Paint Library again). Yet when the price rises above Farrow & Ball's £17.99 for 2.5 litres, and the company address says Chelsea, the conscience gives a twang.

ddly. I felt no such turmoil choosing a sola from The Conran Shop rather than Ikea. But then the thing about paint is that it is meant to be cheap. Read any interior-design book and it will reassure you that "paint is an inexpensive way to transform a room", and though the moment I read this I knew it couldn't be strictly true - nothing is cheap if youreally put your mind to it the mantra has lodged in my

Whenever I flip through a John Oliver swatch book (£23,21 for a 2.5-litre tin), I feel as if I am wrestling with the Devil. I want to side with the angels and buy Crown Expressions but my dreams are now coloured in Hornblende, Hunter Dunn and Chalcedony all from Paint Library.

I'm not convinced that designer paint is really any different from any other kind, and I have still less confidence in my ability to deploy it to best effect. When I enter the more fashionable paint boutiques I feel like a 15-stone woman wandering into Gucci.

Is there any point paying pots of money for designer paint? **Grace Bradberry** reports

Rula Theocharis, a freelance colour consultant, insists that the more expensive paints are generally better. "For exam-ple, red is one of the most difficult colours to reproduce and with, say, John Oliver, you have a purer colour."

On the other hand, I've read an interview with a designer who said that he always used Dulux, and that success could be achieved with any massmarket range provided one had colour sense. But colour sense is exactly what interior designers are selling, so offer-ing to use cheap paint may well be the equivalent of personal shoppers who charge £500, then take you to Miss Selfridge. No doubt even this

chap has lapses of ascetic in-tent and splashes John Oliver's Imari Red across his walls

in the dead of night. In truth, though, the red argument is a red herring where I'm concerned. I will not be putting Salern Red on my walls (Lawrence T. Bridgeman's Old Village Paint range, £14.95 a quart), nor Fired Earth's Better Class Red.

Using varying shades of offwhite in panels, squares, stripes and blocks remains, as far as I'm concerned, the dernier cri of chic. It also negates the need to match tones and "play" with clashing colours. But there is a whole world of nuance, a thousand social dangers, in the colour white.

feeling for colour. I am avoiding Laura Ashley's Country White simply because of the name, redolent as it is of idyllic cottage interiors tucked away in edge-of-town housing estates. I have also given in when it comes to Farrow & Ball's Off-White. Old White. Wall White and Lime White which all look fawn to me.

Instead, after six months of agonising, a long and distressing lilac phase, and the acquisition of approximately 20 different colour charts (Zoffany, Sanderson, Cole & Son. Marston & Langinger, Annie Sloan, Auro, Dulux Trade. Macpherson), I am now fixated on the 24 shades of Off White produced by Papers & Paints. No other paint company will now do. Distressingly. it is also the most expensive range I have so far discovered.

• Jane Shilling is on holiday



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Channel 5's Kirsty Young





Holiday reporter Mary Nightingale Kate Thornton of Top of the Pops



Send in the clones

cause Sybil Ruscoe. the sports reporter recruited to Channel 4's cricket team, looks the image of Channel 5's news presenter Kirsty Young, who's a lot like Mary Nightingale, who's just a gunk of hair gel removed from the DJ Zoe Ball, who's a mere half an eyelid cheekier than the new Top of the Pops presenter Kate Thornton. Television seems like an endless screening of an old B-movie called Invasion of the Baby-Faced

It's cruel, it's trivial, but in a visual medium the jobs - for men and women - inevitably go with the looks. Outside certain troublespots, the aesthetics of television admit the full diversity of the female form, from the dishevelment of Ground Force's Charlie Dimmock to the poise of Carol Vorderman and the maturity of Anne Robinson. Only the last bastions - news, sport and pop music - are the territory of the Baby-Faced Blondes.

The BFBs have become a kind of media elite corps, de-

Lookalike baby-faced blondes have become television's elite corps — deployed by broadcasting bosses to ease the most desperate situations, says Celia Brayfield

situations. Broadcasting bosses fear that nobody over the age of ten watches TOTP, nobody under the age of 50 watches cricket, nobody watches news unless there's a war on and many people can't watch Channel 5 anyway. They believe that everyone will watch a BFB.

in a hearts-and-minds battle, when a BFB goes in there will be a hiatus while the enemy faffs about marvelling that she can walk and read the Autocue at the same time. It worked when John Major put his Government's BFB, Virginia Bottomley, in charge of dismantling the health service, and it's now working like a dream with Sybil Ruscue.

Old farts of all ages were combat-ready once MCC had been dragged doddering and ployed in the most desperate harrumphing into the age of

equal opportunities and Channel 4 had captured the rights to the Test match. Channel 4 sent in the BFB and the enemy fell about, drivelling over her ash-blonde hair, fantasising that she will "scamper in her flowing white dress to gather the ball hit by her hero", nodding tolerantly when she confessed that she had never actually played cricket, and drafting lucrative contracts to wave under her pert little nose.

Would a male reporter with similar credentials be lauded with such guff? I don't think so. It can be years before this bedazzlement wears off - as it seems to have done at last with Channel 5s BFB, Kirsty Young, whose interviews were criticised, in a recent Independent Television Commission report, for being fact-free fluff dressed up as current affairs.

I intend no disrespect to the BFBs themselves. They can't help their looks — give or take a few highlights — nor can they help the medium's hiring policies. In accusing television producers of sexism, I am singing such an old song that the majority of women in work to-

day probably rate it as an an-

cient folk melody. The differ-

ence now is that news chiefs

are not trivialising women by

hiring female reporters appar-

BFBs and the women whose actions make the news is unmissable. With the American Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spelling out Nato's peace terms, it seems ludi-crous that no woman of her age could get a job reporting on her speeches. No woman of Clare Short's appearance would be allowed to introduce the footage of her among the Kosovan refugees, nor would a woman resembling the tennis player Amelie Mauresmo be hired to tinkle the BBC tea-cups during Wimbledon. All this looks bad. It's time to be brave, chaps. Drop your fetish for BFBs and send out real women to chase your ratings.

ently modelled on Barbie; they are trivialising themselves.

The contrast between the



The latest BFB presenter is Sybil Ruscoe, who is to report on the cricket for Channel

Hacked off

UNDERNEATH

JOE JOSEPH

splashed out £72 for two dress-circle tickets to a musical a couple of nights ago. which is something I can definitely recommend if (Hey. do you mind not slurping your coffee so noisily while you're reading this? It's so off-putting) . . . it you enjoy the razzle-dazzle of a show like (And could you turn that radio down! I can barely hear myself think) . . . of a show such as Chicago, and you don't mind your evening being regularly interrupted by bronchial or enough to drown out even Ethel Merman.

Obviously, this makes theatregoing especially rewarding if you happen to be an ear, nose and throat specialist, because the audience is full of your potential patients.

Maybe these people have mistaken the theatre for Harley Street consulting rooms and imagine that the entertainment on stage is just a posher version of those three-year-old magazines you get given to pass the time in the waiting areas of less fancy doctors. Or perhaps the coughing is some sort of code.

like Morse three coughs and a nose blow mean "I'll

bet the butler did it. The only other explanation must be that if you turned to the theatre and concert listings in this newspaper, and used a high-grade microscope to scrutinise those little boxes advertising each show. you'd find a subliminal message in between the critics quotes of "Hilarious" or "Steal a ticket, just make sure you go!" which reads: "Do you have the sort of scary cough that sounds as if alien beings are currently hatching inside your throat? Then go

see this show tonight" You innocently believe that you're just flicking through the entertainments listings, but as soon as you close the newspaper you find yourself in a trance, involuntarily picking up the phone and dialling a theatre (You: "Hello. I'd like two seats for to-night's show." Box Office:

"Have you got one of those hacking coughs that ruin the performance for anyone sitting within 12 rows of you?" You: "Actually, I do." Box Office: "In that case I'm going to have to seat you in the middle of the most expensive and crowded section of the auditorium. May I request that you do absolutely nothing between now and curtain rise to ameliorate your cough?").

Harold Pinter has grown so fed up with noisy audiences puncturing his work that he has just banned the sale of sweets at the Palace Theatre, Watford, where he is currently directing the world premiere of Simon Gray's new play The Late Middle Classes.

A notice in the fover reads: "Because of the delicate atmosphere of this play, the director has suggested that the sale of confectionery being consumed during the performance may cause distraction to the audience."

And Pinter's not the only one who's mad at the coughers and the wrapper-rustlers. Kurt Masur recently walked out halfway through conducting Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony at New York's Lincoln Centre.

'lls message is so human, so full of pain. so full of beauty, and we tried our best." Masur complained, after throwing down his baton. "but with the uncontrolled coughing in the audience, I felt more and more that nobody could concentrate. So I left, I just wanted to make people aware that they were disturbing the process of listening."

It's not that much better when concert audiences wait until a movement ends to break into a cough. Actually, it's a little sinister. Have these people consciously been restrain-ing themselves until then? Or do they just like to seize the opportunity, when it's available, to clear their throats? If it's the latter, do they also make a point of relieving them selves every time they happen to pass a loo?

Mobile phones are the newest curse in the stalls. When the Juilliard Quartet performed in Guangzhou a few weeks ago, the recital had to be stopped because chaos had erupted as mobile phones and pagers chirruped like songbirds through the auditorium, and as the concertgoers took it into their heads to stroll around in search of better seats.

Now, at the theatre where Chicago was showing, the far-sighted managers had come up with a novel way of diverting your

anger in the £36 seats from the surrounding chorus of coughing. Their solution was based on the "If you want to take your mind off your worries, wear tight shoes" principle, whereby you concentrate so intently on your aching feet that you forget about everything else.

The idea they came up with was very simple but effective. It was red plastic binoculars. These binoculars, which have the same, Nasa-verified magnifying power as a milk bottle, cost 40p to hire hour for hour, this is almost the same cost as a car rental.

They were obviously hoping that the people seated in the dress circle would be so incensed at not having been warned that the show was being performed by teeny pig-mies — and hence required the use of binoculars - that they wouldn't even notice all the noise

around them. First theatre manager: "And to make sure the punters all get really mad; we'll fix it so that the only coins that will release these binoculars from their mooring are two 20p pieces."

Second manager: "Could you say that again? I couldn't hear over the coughing." If anything, cinemas are worse. They've been overtaken by people who can't afford proper apartments at London's ridiculous prices, so have settled for teeny, kitchenless flats and treating their cinema seat like a dining room. It's now common to see members of the audience passing guacamole dips,

ketchup and pepper mills from row to row. There could be an enterprising way forward. A recent survey of doctors found that the majority of them felt they deserved a free upgrade on flights if they agreed, when checking in, to help out in a mid-air emergency. "Being taken for granted sticks in the throat," said a man at the British Medical Association. So why don't theatres offer to upgrade ear, nose and throat specialists from the back of the upper circle to the dress circle scats if they agree to unstick a few of the the-

atregoers' throats during the show? OK, I've finished for this week. Thanks for restraining yourselves. I appreciate it. You can go back to slurping your coffee now.

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A little cut now goes a long way...

... at least in Britain, if not

Europe, says Anatole Kaletsky

esterday was a crucial day in the economic histories of Britain and Europe. The announcement of a half-point rate cut by the European Central Bank was the Frankfurt bank's first monetary action since it took control of economic policy in the !i countries of euroland.

By acting more boldly than expected, the bank tried to shake off the image of complacency from which it has suffered since its failure to respond to the worldwide financial crisis and the economic downturn in Germany last automn. But whether yesterday's move lays the foundations for a healthy economic recovery in Europe will depend largely on whether Wim Duisenberg, the bank's President, admits to a new monetary philosophy in

the weeks ahead. In Britain, too, there is more uncertainty than usual about the consequences of vesterday's rate cut. The Bank of England may have taken a risk by cutting interest rates for the sixth time in seven months, on this occasion by a quarter point. The British rate cut was announced against a background of buoyant car sales, accelerating house pric-es and record levels of remortgage borrowing, as householders lock into borrowing rates at the undreamt-of low of just 5 per cent or so over ten years. I welcome the Bank's decision

to add more monetary fuel to an economy that may al-ready be set for take-off. In my view, sticking rigid-ly to an arbitrary inflation target is A quarter point cut is quite a less vital than trylot when ing to reduce unemployment further rates are by boosting economic growth. But so low in terms of the

date, yesterday's decision may well seem mistaken if it becomes the catalyst for a new boom in housing, consumer spending and financial services.That, in turn, could prompt panic reaction from the Bank and the markets, generating expectations that British interest rates will soon rise and push up the pound.

These predictions are, of course, just personal intui-tions. Plenty of economists take the opposite line, issuing warnings that industry is still stuck in recession and that interest rates must be cut to the continental level before British companies can have a fair chance to compete. Rather than argue with my fellow economic seers about our respective readings of the statistical entrails, I want to devote the rest of this space to a broader question which, to judge by my postbag, seems very perplexing to non-economists, including politicians

announced yesterday? The simple answer is that a "mere" quarter or half-point is proportionally quite a lot when interest rates are as low as they are today. Yesterday's European rate cut reduced the cost of servicing a euro loan by almost a lifth and, in theory, raised the value of European assets, such as shares and property, by almost as much.

Why do I get so excited about apparently tiny shifts in

monetary policy, like the ones

and businessmen.

The second, more profound, reason for worrying about small changes in interest rates relates to business psychology and monetary dogma. If a change in interest rates is presented in a dogmatic monetarist framework, as a one-off event motivated purely by inflation or money supply statistics and unrelated to business conditions and unemployment, it may indeed be dismissed as irrelevant. But if a small monetary move is perceived as a sign of commitment to steady economic growth and a harbinger of further action, it can trigger a much more powerful effect. The central bank's action

can be seen as a national "insurance policy" against recession, to quote the term used by Alan Greenspan, the Chair-man of the US Federal Reserve Board, in the midst of last year's global financial crisis. The Fed cut interest rates by only three quarters of a point, but this modest action had a huge worldwide impact. because of the perception that Mr Greenspan would go on cutting until the threat of a

global recession disappeared. The European bank, and before it the Bundesbank, has adopted exactly the opposite approach. Even when it has cut interest rates, it has always pretended that its monetary decisions had nothing to do with unemployment or the threat of recession. It has

insisted that there would be no further action, even if the economy continued to slump. Again last night, Mr Duisenberg said that the large rate cut was designed to preclude speculation about any further easing and added that the bank "is not follow-

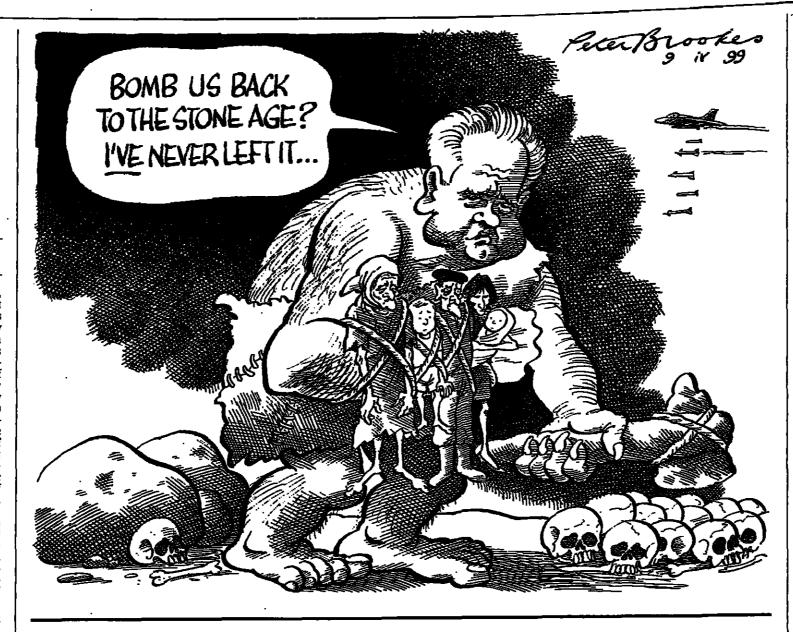
ing a counter-cycli-cal policy". Such protestations of indifference to the state of the economic cycle have naturally diminished the beneficial effects of European rate cuts. It was hardly surprising that the euro fell in the markets with almost every word Mr Duisenberg spoke.

his observation leads me to another question about interest rates that readers often ask. How can i say, as I did above, that an interest rate of 5.25 per cent may be too low for Britain. while insisting that continental interest rates may need to be cut even below 2.5 per cent? This is only puzzling if you ignore the role of interest rates in managing demand. Europe is stuck in deep recession with vast unemployment. Britain is pulling out of a brief economic slowdown with a much higher proportion of its people in jobs. Europe needs exceptionally low interest rates to pull it out of recession, while Britain requires roughly neutral rates. comparable to those in America, to sustain adequate growth

There is no paradox here. unless you think interest rates and monetary policy should have nothing to do with managing demand and countering economic cycles. If you think that, perhaps you should apply to be the next President of the European bank.

without inflation

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.



Will they never learn?

nother middle way has not worked. The Great Bombing Pretence is collapsing in Kosovo, as it was bound to collapse. Foreign policy is revealed not as focus-grouped, glamorous kid-machismo but as something that kills people. Nato's bombing adventure in Kosovo looked good for a day or two. But it was always cynical and ill thought-out. Now, with generals on both sides of the Atlantic screaming no, the "imma-culate coercion" of the cruise missile war must be followed by the real

In the United States this week I have heard almost no support for Nato's belief that "bombing alone" would win security for Kosovo's Albanians. I hear only Lyndon Johnson's notorious Vietnam quote, "I never felt that this war would be won from the air". Yesterday's New York Times/CBS poll was clear. Will airstrikes stop President Milosevic? Sixty per cent say no. Will America send ground troops? Seventy-five per cent say yes. The 24 American ground attack helicopters being sent to Albania are the first swallows of an awesome summer. Last October Western diplomats told Mr Milosevic to give autonomy to Kosovo "or else". He was threatening no state, and perpetrating no greater evil than those being ignored by the West in the Caucasus or condoned as a fait accompli in Bosnia. But great men had said "or else", and the networks were watching. So now it is "or else".

Europe thinks it goes to war when diplomacy has failed. America thinks it goes to war when Europe has failed. It is grimly intriguing that the American pro-war lobby is made up of mostly younger people who do not remember (or have forgotten) the Vietnam escalation. The issue, once again, is not the plausibility of the operation but the esteem of Uncle Sam and confidence in America's military omnipotence. As for whether a Kosovan war will be anything but an American one, you can hear, read and talk about this subject from dawn to dusk and not hear a word about British involvement - beyond the complaint that "America is having to rescue Europe from another of its messes".

The collapse of "bombing alone" this past formight has been spectacular. The misreading of Mr Milosevic by Nato deserves to rank with Gallipoli and Pearl Harbor in the annals of military incompetence.

Nato's leaders are treading the

path that led to insanity in Vietnam

Bill Clinton and Tony Blair could not have been more clear in the objective. It was to "stop the killing and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and force Milosevic to grant the region partial autonomy". The bombing has achieved the opposite. By targeting cities, factories and bridges, and hitting enough houses to kill civilians (including, of all obscenities, native Kosovans in Pristina). the bombs have increased support for the regime and made compro-

Why leaders pursue strategies that so regularly fail (as this approach failed in Iraq) is for psychologists to answer. Mr Milosevic's response was exactly as predicted. Faced with mands that he accept Nato troops on his soil and a promise that they would not be imposed, he had to judge whether that promise was believable. He sensibly concluded that it was not. He urgently moved his

formidable army

into Kosovo, where until this week not a single bomber had been able to find it. In two weeks the Yugoslav leader cleared half the province of its Albanian population and, in grim Balkan fashion, treated perhaps hundreds of Albanian men as putative KLA fighters and shot them dead. Mr Milosevic is now in a position to offer a "monitored ceasefire" but with the Kosovo Liberation Army truly crushed. It defies belief that anyone in London or Washington thought bombing alone would achieve any other

outcome. Nato spin-doctors are frantically trying to express "surprise" that Mr Milosevic moved so fast and acted so ruthlessly, and argue that bombing alone was always a long-term strategy, whatever that means. The American press hoots derision at such excuses. The Pentagon and the Ministry of Defence are known to have been sceptics about bombing from the start. In the nearest Washington comes to an official statement, "sources" this week admitted that there never was any coherence to bombing alone. As a State Department official admitted: "We have accomplished nothing."

The policy is dead. Whether Mr Milosevic would have behaved with the ruthlessness of the past two weeks without the bombing is, of course, horribly moot. What is certain is that before the arrival of Madeleine Albright, Robin Cook, Rich-

ard Holbrooke and the world's most powerful bombs, Mr Milosevic was conducting a guerrilla war with the ruthless equally KLA, a group that had scant local sut port until its cause was "adopted" by Britain and others. The United Nations last week put the Albanian-Serb balance of atrocities at roughly even. After the arrival of the grandees, Mr Milosevic changed tack

and did what he did

in Bosnia. He has killed thousands and displaced half a million people, while conceding not one inch to Nato. He has enforced an Albanian diaspora, tweaked Uncle Sam's nose and won the grudging support of Russia and China, important if there is to be a land war. In other words, he has done precisely what President Clinton and Mr Blair said

they would never let happen. This week Nato's leaders, having learnt nothing, came up with a new pledge. It was that the displaced people of Kosovo would soon march home under the banner of a Nato protection force. If I were a Kosovan, I would give no more weight to such promises than to an offer of autonomy from Belgrade. The West gave similar pledges under Dayton to displaced Muslims in Bosnia. They have not been honoured.

We now have "the ground option". The Pentagon is reported to have considered the invasion of

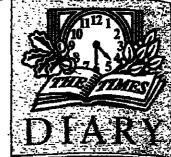
Kosovo so crazy that it refused to draw up contingency plans. That has had to change under presidential order. Schemes of Vietnamese fantasticality are now being woven. They involve the air cavalry "cleaning" corridors into Kosovo for an infantry advance through the mountains. Behind them will come returning Albanian villagers, to be resettled in safe havens along the border, secured by modern technology from marauding Serbs. What the RAF has left standing of Pristina may have to be flattened. But as they said in Vietnam, you sometimes have to destroy the village to

save the village. n the heat of war, a fine line divides practicality from insan-ity. An idea later dismissed as risible, like bombing Cambodia or defoliating North Vietnam, may have seemed serviceable at the time. Desperate leaders need desperate ways out of corners. Today's armies, designed to confront communism, are being marched into pattle by I leagets to get hast pictures off the television screen. A wild compulsion appears to have seized Western liberalism as it gazes ogle-eyed at whatever atrocity the networks have selected for the nightly "grief pornography" slot. It is as if, with the Cold War over, liberals now want their turn at playing war games. They want to feel the surge of power, the roar of

the chopper blade, the thrill of

If I thought for one minute that the appalling destruction America and Britain are now raining down on Yugoslavia could conceivably achieve its declared objectives, I might ponder the justice of such action. There is such a thing as a world order and it does merit imposition, as in the Falklands and Kuwait Though the integrity of states should be respected, it is not absolute. But in Kosovo no virtue appears achievable. A European state, already afflicted by a communist past and a brutalist present, is being plunged into further misery. Those we purport to help are being killed and exiled. The best we can hope is that Mr Milosevic declares his cleansing at an end and invites the "monitors" back, as he did last October. That will be a Nato defeat. But it will be a lesser defeat than the madness now on offer from the hawks of Washington and London.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Word perfect

SALMAN RUSHDIE is teaching Mariella Frostrup to write. When the novelist (below right) heard that his friend, the television presenter (left), was thinking of taking up a creative writing course, he gallantly stepped in and insisted on instructing her himself. ing her himself.

Frostrup initially jumped at the chance of learning the finer points of prose-writing from the author of Midnight's Children and The Ground Beneath Her Feet, his latest novel based on a couple in a rock band. But the presenter, whose trademark is her gravelly

voice, was quickly overawed.

"Salman handed me the first draft of The Ground Beneath Her Feet." says Frostrup. "After reading the first few pages I lost all faith in my own abilities. I had to keep wriggling out of lessons, like a kid who hasn't done her homework.'





WIME

ASIANINITR

AFTER her histrionics at the Oscars, an apology of sorts from Gwyneth Paltrow: "I'm so sick of myself, my boring voice and my stupid soundbites."

P. D. JAMES is eclipsing Jeffrey Archer's popularity with the toughest audience in the world. Baroness James of Holland Park is beginning to prove a greater draw than Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare at dinners organised by local Conservative associations.

Her challenge for pole position on the rubber-chicken circuit can be put down to her discourse on crimewriting with a touch of politics, and Archer devoting more time to his

mayoral ambitions. "Her chats go down well with association members who don't like politics," I am told. "Jeffrey gets fewer invitations these days: he always makes the same jokes."

WHILE groupies adored him, int Eastwood's son Kyle (be failed to impress the powers that be during his debut on the London jazz scene this week. After his set at Pizza Express Jazz Club. the event's organiser tells me: "The show was full, but we don't know if that is because his father is Clint Eastwood or because he has some talent as a musician."



■ UNLIKE Tony Blair, Trevor Phillips knows how to act heroically. While the PM's attempt to portray himself as a good citizen in the seas off the Seycheiles last January backfired when the "rescued" swimmer denied he had been in trouble, the TV presenter helped a driver in distress and kept quiet.

Phillips, a Labour mayoral candidate for London, pulled an injured woman from her car a fortnight ago after he saw her vehicle involved in a collision with a bus. Once he had calmed her down, he disappeared because "it's not always helpful having a recognisable face around in an emergency".

PHILIP GOULD, Tony Blairs adviser on how to market himself and his party, turns Labour supporters into Tories. Fraser Kemp. MP, tells how he was persuaded by the tactician to spend E7.500 on a focus group. two of whose members voted Labour. But after Gould's presentation, one switched sides.

LAURENCE MARKS and Maurice Gran, the comedy writers, are rustling up a television detective series to relaunch Rik Mayall's career. The comedian, who starred as Alan B Stard in the pair's New Statesman, has been out of action since suffering a serious accident on a quad bike last April. By creating a detective who "cheats at cards", Marks and Gran hope to come up with an antidote to what they consider the blandness of the Inspector Morse genre.

EDWARD WELSH

If you order a third bottle of rioja at lunch on a weekday, the waiter will tilt towards you a label that reads 'bang goes your afternoon' **Giles Coren** medicine bottles that say "Do not As Dr Stuttaford revealed in

Perhaps special labels could be I'm always baffled by those

s my girlfriend bundled up her most urgent possessions, skipped over the obstacle course of empty bottles. cast a withering look at me, and slid out of the front door into the rain, I thought to myself, "why on earth doesn't the British Medical Association call for meaningful advice to be included on all bottles and cans of

Yesterday, thank God, it did. And while this latest nannyish press release from the doctors' trade union is probably too late to save my relationship. "meaningful advice" is clearly the way forward for future generations. Who, after all, pays any attention to that "can seriously damage your health" stuff? What my first bottle of cider — drunk on a family holiday when I was 12 should have said on it was: "Seventeen years from now this stuff will have turned you into a

miserable git with a spare tyre and a solipsism problem which may jeopardise relations with the opposite sex". I am thinking of suing Woodpecker for the fact that there's no immediate likelihood of my starting a family.

This "meaningful advice" idea is truly the most sensible thing I have ever heard. Might I suggest that bottles of Grolsch carry the warning "May lead to your fancying a large doner with onions and extra chilli sauce later, but you'll be sorry in the morning". And think of the suffering that could be alleviated by lines like "More than three pints of Caffreys may cause delusions of sexual attractive-

lucky, you'll only roll over and snore all night". i am even now composing a letter to those Groucho trendies who brought absinthe back on to

ness", perhaps with the adden-

dum that "even if you do get

the cocktail lists of Britain's more fashionable bars. A suitable warning on the bottles would be "May cause you to think it is time to start a waspish cultural

journal with absurdist cartoons". Wine labels will be changed for ever, and not before time. Now when the sommelier brings the bottle, you will peruse it not to check that it is the Savigny-les-Beaune you ordered, but to verify the many ways in which it could kill you. "I think Sir will find this a cheeky little burgundy," the obsequious fellow will say, "but the château had an antifreeze problem some years back and there are rumours about how it got approved by the standards commission, so don't come running to me if you wake up feeling

like you've been mugged."

kept in the cellar to be applied by staff at appropriate times. So that if you order a third bottle of rioja at lunch on a weekday, the waiter will tilt towards you a label that reads "Bang goes your afternoon"

Nor should it be only bona fide drunkards who are protected. Connoisseurs, 100, can be saved from themselves. Every bottle of 47 Petrus, for example, should say "For the price you're paying for this, you could have bought a Volvo" .Or "Think first, do you really want everyone in the kitchen laughing at you for spending £12,000 on a bottle of plonk? Can you bear the fuss the sommelier will make opening it. the way everybody will stare?" Then we can bring "meaning-

fulness" back to other warnings.

operate machinery". What ma-chinery? This is 1999. Do they mean a laptop? An electric orange-squeezer? A Braun Independent 2000? Because, frankly. the chances of my suddenly getting an urge to operate a spinning jenny or a seed-drill while under the influence of Benilyn are pretty small. "Help." you can hear them cry, "he's got a steam-powered laundry press and he may be on antibiotics."

> ot that we need antibiotics any more. Not now we have cereal. "A bowl of cereal could soon replace antibiotics as a cure for stomach upsets," crowed a tabloid yesterday. Does this mean that on each packet of Frosties children should be warned "Stick to stated dose, always finish the course"? If cereal is not your game, give

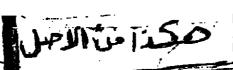
thanks for the humble tomato.

yesterday's paper, the anti-oxidant lycopene, responsible for the red colour in tomatoes, can protect you against cancer. Perhaps mobile phones, our latest carcinogenic addiction, could carry the proviso that calls should be made only while eating brightly coloured fruit. Smirnoff could run disclaimers insisting that its product be used only as an ingredient in Bloody Marys: We accept no responsibility for health problems deriving from other uses." But where, exactly, does the

lycoprene situation leave certain fruits that are not red - such as limes, quinces and lychees? I call upon the BMA to demand that they are all labelled with the harrowing reminder: "May not stop you getting cancer".

Philip Howard will return next

مكذا من الاصل



THETTIMES

THE LONG CAMPAIGN

Labour's lead in Scotland may not be as secure as it seems

It is, Alex Salmond said yesterday, "the most important election in Scotland's history". On that, at least, Tony Blair would appear to be in agreement. The Prime Minister used his first formal outing on the hustings to attack Mr Salmond and the SNP in vivid language. The voters of Scotland, by contrast, are not expressing quite the same level of enthusiasm for this contest. The campaign has been running continuously since the referendum result that endorsed a parliament with modest tax-raising powers over 18 months ago. It has existed in shadow form since devolution re-emerged as a central issue in Scottish life in the 1960s. Kosovo is, for the moment, overshadowing this battle.

The parties have done their best this week to rekindle passions. Policies have been showered on the Scots from all directions. Labour has put forward five "key pledges", the Conservatives seven, the SNP ten or 14 depending on the precise method of calculation, and the Liberal Democrats more than 20. The issues, although extremely worthy, have a certain familiarity. All four parties favour en-hanced spending on the Scottish Health Service, several computers stuffed into every Scottish classroom, and dramatic new measures to deal with Scotland's drug crisis. All the opposition parties seem inclined to repeal higher education fees and abolish tolls on the bridge that links

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the Isle of Skye with the Scottish mainland. The contest would be more dramatic if independence itself were the central question. Labour, not the SNP, has done its best to make the Union the defining issue. A remorseless assault on the economic costs of separation has allowed Labour to reassert its authority. Mr Salmond has been obliged to shift SNP strategy. His most prominent promise now is that the SNP would forgo next year's income tax cut and use that money for social expenditure.

This pledge is a transparent bid for the ballots of "old Labour" sympathisers, particularly those located in the West of Scotland. The SNP needs to expand its support beyond its traditional heartland in northeastern Scotland into Strathchyde if it is ever to acquire a parliamentary majority. There are, though, real risks for Mr Salmond in endorsing tax increases. This stand may be popular in Glasgow but may not play well in the northeast, which was relatively cool about tax-raising powers during the referendum campaign and are enjoying an economic renaissance.

There is little reason, though, for Labour to be complacent. The SNP is unlikely to convert urban Scotland en masse but Donald Dewar may have difficulties in persuading his natural supporters to visit the polling station. A low turnout would hurt Labour. The new voting arrangements will confuse some voters and may lead others to divide their loyalties between Labour in the constituency section and the SNP in the party list element. Mr Dewar may regret the day that he endorsed proportional representation.

This election may yet come to turn on personalities and the broader theme of Scottish identity. If so, it will move into Mr Salmond's strongest territory. The SNP leader is without doubt the most charismatic of the contenders for First Minister and will exploit patriotic sentiment. Mr Dewar cannot be expected to provide him with competition. Mr Blair is not widely loved in Scotland and there is a limit to the degree that Mr Brown can be presented as a surrogate Prime Minister. Given the likelihood of Scottish Liberal Democrats eventually gravitating to Labour after the election, the odds are still strongly in favour of Labour running the first Scottish executive. The struggle to be the largest single party in the parliament is, however, by no means settled.

NO TIME TO TRADE BLAME

Refugees risk becoming the fuse of a wider conflagration

Refugees do not willingly leave their last possessions lying in the mud, throw away identity papers and abandon scarce food half-eaten. The Macedonians' pell-mell evacuation of Blace, the wretched holdingpoint on the Kosovo-Macedonia border, has inflicted further misery on families who had already endured the unspeakable. It is hard to understand how this mass trans-shipment could have taken international monitors so totally by surprise that they still have not established where thousands of these people have been sent.

The huge fleet of buses that moved them cannot have been assembled without anybody noticing; and there were reasons to be alert. This was not the first instance the snail-like conduct of border officials and the bundling of refugees on to planes to Turkey were others - of the Kosovan deportees being treated by Macedonian police and military more like cattle than like human beings in extremis.

But while every effort must be made to see that all Kosovo's fugitives are now registered and protected as well as fed and sheltered, to let recriminations inflame an already taut situation would be short-sighted and dangerous. Trading blame will not help the Kosovans; and for Nato, good working relations with the Macedonian Government are indispensable. However rough the Macedonian handling of Blace, that foetid encampment did urgently need emptying before it was swept by epidemics; and the authorities had been severely criticised for failing to act earlier.

It is anything but true, as the Macedonian Government asserts, that the country has had no Western help in handling the humanitarian crisis; Nato has set up huge tent cities, and ferried in 1,400 tons of supplies. But it is equally unfair not to recognise that Macedonia's conduct is partly ascribable to panic. A much larger and richer country would be overwhelmed

by the arrival on its borders, within days, of 130,000 destitute people. That is equivalent to 5.9 per cent of Macedonia's 2.2 million population. The same ratio, for Britain, would be 3.4 million refugees. In Macedonia, a melting-pot whose Slavic majority rubs shoulders with half a million Albanians, as well as ethnic Turks, Bulgarians and Romanies, the fear is that they will stay, destroying the tenuous accommodation which has brought Albanian parties into the governing coalition.

Not for nothing is Macedonia called "the powder-keg of the Balkans". Many in the Skopje elite, which has uncomfortably close links with Belgrade and is deeply suspicious of Albanian nationalist aspirations, have scant sympathy for the refugees. The best way to cope with this distasteful situation is to acknowledge that its Government is walking a tightrope. The West must demonstrate convincingly that it will receive both ample humanitarian aid and broader economic support to weather the disruptions of war — and above all to persuade it that its best prospect of seeing the refugees return to Kosovo is intensified co-operation with Nato. Mishandled, this crisis could prompt Skopje to throw in its lot with Belgrade, a course that would be disastrous for Macedonia, but also for the conduct of the war: Nato will need to use the Macedonian land routes into Kosovo.

Equally urgent is generous help for Montenegro, whose brave democratic Government is handling 60,000 refugees while being actively destabilised by Belgrade: and in miserably poor Albania, where one in ten is now a refugee - almost all of them Ghegs, in a land riven by clan rivalry between Ghegs and Tosks. Slobodan. Milosevic's purposes will be well served if, by straining economies and ethnic tolerance, he can set off a chain of uncontainable regional confrontations. He must at all costs be outflanked.

ASIAN ENTERPRISE

Energy and talent have turned refugees into millionaires

As newcomers to Britain, they huddled in wintry airports and temporary reception centres, penniless, shivering and shocked. But the 50,000 Asians expelled in 1972 from Uganda by its then President Idi Amin have turned that tale of woe into a dramatic success story. A list of the 200 richest Asians in Britain, published this week, shows that the bedraggled East African refugees of a quarter of a century ago are now, with the Chinese community.

Britain's most high-flying ethnic minority. The courage, talent and sheer hard work with which Ugandan and other Asian immigrants rebuilt their lives, in a country whose welcome was tempered with anxiety, have proved a blessing not only for the new millionaires themselves but for the British economy as a whole. Tens of thousands of jobs have been created by expanding Asian businesses, and more will follow. Asian enterprise, still concentrated in the traditional food, fashion and retailing sectors, is now moving into high-tech and hotel industries and the media. Increasing numbers of businesswomen are taking their place beside businessmen. The young are taking their place beside, or instead of, their parents; for first-generation entrepreneurs foster an

early knowledge of management in their children by training them in the businesses they found - then handing them on. The merit of Asian business strategies speaks for itself: the combined wealth of the list's entrepreneurs is more than £7 billion.

The energy that made millionaires of a few is fuelling a broader move towards integration and minority achievement in modern Britain. Non-white teenagers are now more likely than their white counterparts to stay at school after 16; the percentage of black and Asian Britons with

degrees is higher than that of whites. Such achievements are all the more remarkable in light of the racism still to be found in parts of British society, which continues to throw up obstacles for minorities. Black and Asian Britons are under-represented in the police. Whitehall and the upper echelons of the public sector. In a country now painfully trying, in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, to eradicate racial injustice, the economic success of Britain's irrepressible Asian millionaires serves not only as a mute reproach to the insular who once feared their immigration. It also offers fresh evidence of the benefits of working together to create a genuinely multicultural society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Attitudes harden on both sides of Kosovo conflict

From Professor Timothy Williamson.

Sir, Nato action has created solidarity between anti-authoritarian Serb intellectuals and the Milosevic Government. I have longstanding contacts with teachers of philosophy at Belgrade University, opponents of Milosevic until recently, in some cases at risk of their jobs, who now firmly sup-port his refusal to give in to Nato

They have no illusions about the military disparity and are prepared to endure bombing over the long haul. They know of Serb ethnic cleansing, but believe that withdrawal of all Yugoslav forces from Kosovo would lead to ethnic cleansing in the reverse direction, of ordinary Serbs by the KLA, a fear amply grounded in the army's past record (Humanitarian Law Violations in Kosovo, Human Rights Watch, New York, 1998). They have no confidence that a Nato peacekeeping force would prevent such

Escalating Nato violence hardens Serb resolve and undermines the prospects for moderate political forces in Belgrade, on whose development hopes for stability in the region depend. Is Nato making any serious attempt to provide a way for Serbia to back down without engaging in what educated Serbs would perceive as a betraval of fellow-Serbs in Kosovo?

Nato leaders' well-meaning but counter-productive toughness is no substitute for a realistic long-term strategy.

Yours faithfully, TIMOTHY WILLIAMSON (Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, University of Edinburgh), 32a Mansionhouse Road, Edinburgh EH9 2JD. timothy.williamson@ed.ac.uk

From Mrs Catherine Windels

Sir. Michael Binyon (report, April 3) writes about the strong public support in Europe for sending ground troops to Kosovo and the high level of concern over this course in the US.

I am sure most American readers of your paper have had their fill of articles pointing to American ignorance of the issues in Kosovo. In fact, Americans are fully aware of two key facts. First, the civil war in which we have so disastrously intervened is manifestly a local European conflict. of the sort our ancestors came to America to avoid: one in which

Sir. Over half a century ago my wife

and I happened to be in South Sudan

animals which all could recognise.

I was intrigued, therefore, to read in

your report. "Voting — as easy as falling off a logo" (April 3), that we electors in Britain, despite the endless

repetition of "education, education,

education" being the biggest issue of

the day, are soon to be freed of any

confusion about for whom or for what

we are voting by helpful pictorial

Plas Cwmllecoediog, Aberangell, Nr Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9QP.

Sir, I am totally in favour of charitable

donations rather than floral tributes

to mark a death and have made a

However, I strongly resent those

who place this request in the Deaths

column without the courtesy of add-

ing "if desired" or something similar.
This arrogant presumption over-

looks the fact that some may feel the

particular deceased is worthy of no

Sir, Green string used in the garden

never seems to have a free end: a

frustrating and time-wasting situa-

tion. Threading the string through a

half cork and moving it along the

string as required will ensure no lost

ends and happier gardening.

The Ark, Church Street,

Yours faithfully.

Wells-next-the-Sea.

Norfolk NR23 IJB.

JOHN PEASE,

tribute, floral or charitable.

95 Ingrebourne Gardens.

Happy ending

From Dr John Pease

Upminster, Essex RM14 IBJ.

Yours truly.

April &

RON CARVER.

similar request in my own will.

logos. Press on, Mr Blunkett.

Yours sincerely.
FREDERIC BENNETT.

Last wishes

From Mr Ron Carver

Voter recognition

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Americans have become enmeshed for reasons none of our leaders (or

yours) can explain convincingly.

Second, the vast majority of the ground troops Nato would supply would be American soldiers, such as the three yours may remaided as Sask the three young men paraded on Serb television.

Ignorant though some of us may be of the murky details of Balkan his-tory. Americans have more than enough information to justify opposition to intensifying American involvement in this.

Sincerely, CATHERINE WINDELS, 155 Garth Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583. catherine54@netscape.net

From Mr K. R. H. Allen

Sir, It should be a matter of principle that if reporters based in Yugoslavia are not allowed to visit sites of supposed atrocities in Kosovo, they should remain silent when taken to places where Nato's bombing campaign has, very regrettably, resulted in the death or wounding of civilians.

Instead, we see on television Serbs taunting Nato with cowardice for unwillingness to fight them on the ground. This is nauseating when some Serbs believe it is legitimate to despoil, rape and murder defenceless

Kosovo civilians.
I believe Nato servicemen deserve better understanding from the media.

Yours faithfully. RODNEY ALLEN, 23 Pembroke Gardens Close, Edwardes Square, W8 6HR.

From the Ambassador of Poland

Sir, I was surprised by your report (April 3) alleging that Poland feels reassured because Nato is showing its defiance of Moscow by conducting air raids in the former Yugoslavia, and that we support this operation not least because of the opposition to it from the Russian Federation.

First, let me stress that Poland's will to accede to the Alliance had nothing to do with a threat from any specific country — there were plenty of well known reasons upon which. I think, it is not necessary to dwell here again.

Second, it seems to be obvious that the reason for the operation in the former Yugoslavia is Nato's will to stop a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo. Nato's current armed operations offer the best avenue of coercing

President Milosevic into returning to the path of negotiations and respect for human rights. Poland very much counts on the Russian co-operation in

Sincerely yours.
R. STEMPLOWSKI, 47 Portland Place, WIN 4JH.

this respect.

From Sir Henry McDowell

Sir. Are we fighting a previous war? We seem to be assuming that Milo-sevic, following precedent, might ultimately seek to maintain his policies against international opposition by turning to the use of his guns, tanks and warplanes. His military power must therefore be reduced as our first

priority.

But he has devised a cruel alternative to armed warfare, which has so far made the use of his military strength quite unnecessary. To secure his policies and position, he has loaded countries opposing those policies with an almost intractable burden of caring for refugees.

What should be the defensive strategy to "warfare" waged in this way?

Yours sincerely, HENRY McDOWELL, 128 Court Lane, SE21 7EA.

From Mr John Pedler

Sir, The best way to demonstrate that the Kosovars shall return to their country is for the European countries of Nato to pledge contributions to a fund ample to restore every home des-troyed by the Serbs. That not only would give concrete hope to the Kosovar refugees, and credible reas-surance to their hosts that their stay will be limited - but would infect the Serbs with a sense of futility.

The West should not show in Kosovo the same disregard for the politico-military potential of aid that those of us involved found in Bosnia. Most Serbs in Serbia, as in Bosnia, want a share in European prosperity and an end to their hated pariah status. Were the Europeans to offer that alternative, which cannot come without a change of leadership, they would be shooting at Milosevic's Achilles' heel. Where the stick is short, a carrot is needed.

Yours truly JOHN PEDLER, J. P. Diplomatic Consultancy, A. Stangera 16, Volosko 51410, Opatija, Croatia.

Racism in the police

From the Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation Joint Executive Committee

when the first free universal franchise Sir, In his interview with Magnus elections were to be held. Illiteracy Linklater ("Lawrence judge offers his was all-prevailing, so neither the defence", April 1), Sir William Macnames of the parties nor the canpherson of Cluny refers to "pockets of didates could usefully appear on the racism, perhaps particularly in the lower ranks of the police force and the ballot paper. Hence, all those entitled to cast their vote had to choose, when canteen". This seems naive. Many of putting their mark, between logos of the officers referred to are likely to be relatively new, some with less than I recall that the party represented two or three years' service. Certainly by the crocodile got fewer votes than they would not have been around 18 any other: surely to be expected years ago at the time of the Scarman because the banks of the River Nile report. Many officers in senior ranks have been in the force since long are infested with these reptiles which are man's most feared enemy in the before 1981, when attitudes in society

were very different. The legal profession has long berated police officers for giving opinions not backed by firm evidence. However. Sir William's report suggests that he and his panel felt empowered, in the absence of evidence, to make assumptions. For an officer to have entertained the possibility, for example, that Stephen Lawrence's mur-

der may have been anything other than a purely racially motivated unwitting racism.

There appears to be no acknow-ledgement in the interview of the incompetence that led to the publication of informants' names and addresses in Sir William's report, yet he has castigated officers for their mistakes. But then neither he nor his panel is subject to complaint, investigation and, perhaps, punishment under a disciplinary code.

We hope that the legacy of Stephen Lawrence is a better, more tolerant and responsible society. The police officers of London are ready, willing and able to meet the challenges. In return they expect fairness and

Yours etc. GLEN SMYTH Chairman. Metropolitan Police Federation Joint Executive Committee, Harold Scott House. 1 Birchfield Street, Limehouse, El4 8EX.

City charters

From Professor John Beckett-Sir, Your report (April 5) on the battle

to become the last city to be created in this millennium quite correctly says that "it is not necessary to have a cathedral to be awarded the status".

But in the past an Anglican cathedral was a necessary qualification and, by the Victorian period, city charters vere granted almost automatically to towns which became the seats of Anglican bishops (eg, Manchester 1853, Liverpool 1880). However, in 1884 the newly created Diocese of Southwell, which took as its cathedral the rural Minster in the village of that name, became the first seat not granted a city charter.

It followed that if an Anglican cathedral did not automatically qualify a town, there was no reason to preclude important towns from becoming cities simply because they lacked the appropriate links with the Church of England.

Belfast applied in conjunction with Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. After much discussion in the Home Office a charter was granted in 1888. Other towns followed: Birmingham in 1889, Leeds and Sheffield in 1893; Nottingham, Bradford and Hull at the time of the Diamond Jubilee in 1897. None had an Anglican cathedral at the time.

Subsequent grants have usually (but not invariably) been made in conjunction with important royal

Yours sincerely. JOHN BECKETT, Department of History, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

ITV's standards

From Mr John Clark

Sir, Raymond Snoddy, in his summary of the Independent Television Commission's annual review covering ITV, concluded that, adding up its inadequacies and prevarications. ITV is a disgrace (article, "ITV runs out of excuses", Media Times, April 2).

The previous evening the programme Naked Secrets was positioned in the hour between 10pm and lipm. News at Ten had been replaced by a programme on table dancing.

When ITV dropped News at Ten it put out an advertising campaign elling us that ITV was getting better. This "improvement" is being over-

seen by the current chief executive of ITV who, in another Snoddy article on the same page, is cited as a candidate for the BBC Director-General's job. It is to be hoped that those making the selection both read Mr Snoddy

and watch ITV. Yours faithfully. JOHN CLARK 48 Albany Park Road,

Kingston upon Thames. Surrey KT2 5SU. April 7. Letters should carry a daytime

telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Business basis for eurosceptic stance

From Mr Colin Bullen

Sir. The assertions by Labour MPs Giles Radice and Bill Rammel! (letter, April 7) concerning the business view of EMU are unsustainable. The Institute of Directors have made clear their very grave doubts over the single currency while the Federation of Small Businesses have twice voted at their AGM to withdraw from the EU altogether.

The reality is that only about 15 per cent of business activity has any con-nection with the EU, the rest being either confined within the UK or relating to the wide world outside Europe. Is it sensible that, in order to satisfy the demands of a few multi-national companies, we should sacrifice both our political independence and accountable system of government, by tying ourselves irrevocably to an organisation with which we have had an adverse trade balance for decades and which is afflicted both with institutional corruption and an

inefficient economic structure? Yours faithfully, C. R. BULLEN (Member, NEC, Campaign for an Independent Britain), 119 Douglas Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2UE.

From Mr R. Lathey

Sir, Giles Radice and Bill Rammell declare that "the base of British eurosceptism is rooted in confusion and misinformation". On the contrary, the basis of British

eurosceptism is rooted in the clear knowledge that the country is being led - regardless of the views of the electorate - into a European superstate, and that the single currency is merely the next step in that direction.

The confusion and misinformation rest with those who are unable to accept this or, worse, accept it but seek to camouflage the true agenda.

Yours faithfully, R LATHEY, 7 Trafalgar Court. Woodlands Avenue, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3ES.

Museum's Great Court

From Professor Emeritus Luke Herrmann

Sir. In your article and leader on the British Museum Great Court development (April 5; see also letter, same day) you infer criticism of the museum's keepers for putting the storage and display of their collections before the integrity of the great building that houses them.

My Oxford English Reference Dictionary defines a museum as "a building used for storing and exhibiting objects of historical, scientific or cultural interest". In modern times architects and their patrons have often ignored this - Berlin's new Jewish Museum and the proposed V&A extension, for instance - and remarkable feats of architecture have come before practicality.

Keepers at the British Museum must continue to put their collections first. It is good to have "a great new public plaza for London" on the premises as an added attraction to draw in visitors, but they must not be diverted from the galleries, and these must not be overshadowed, as in their present state many will be, by the plaza. Let us hope that the strengthened

management of the British Museum (report, April 1) will immediately find equal resources to help the keepers in their primary task. Yours faithfully.

LUKE HERRMANN. The Coombes, Sibbertoft, Market Harborough LE16 9TZ. April 5.

Hysteria lecture

From Dr Helen King

Sir. Dr Gardner-Thorpe (letter. April I) correctly identifies the colour illustration to your feature on female circurncision (Weekend, March 27) as Jean-Martin Charcot's demonstration of hysteria at the Salpetrière.

But the patient - probably Blanche Wittman, the "Queen of Hysterics" may have learnt her moves from something omitted from the reproduction you used: a drawing of one of the stages of hysteria, displayed at the back of the lecture room. This was by Paul Richer, who can be seen in your illustration next to Charcot capturing Blanche's swoon.

Like our own chat-show guests, Blanche may have dutifully supplied what her audience wanted to see.

Yours faithfully. HELEN KING. Departments of Classics and History, The University of Reading, Whiteknights. PO Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA.

So that's all right

From Mr Nicholas Wibberley

Sir, I have to hand a plastic bottle which bears the legend "Carbonated spring water. Suitable for vegetar-

Yours etc. NICHOLAS WIBBERLEY, East Whiddon, Landkey Road, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9LA.



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE April 8: The Prince of Wales today visited the Western Isles where he

was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Western Isles. The Viscount Dunrossil. His Royal Highness this after-noon opened the Berneray Causeway linking North Uist to Bern-

eray.
The Prince of Wales then visited the Taigh Chearsabhaigh Arts Centre, Lochmaddy, North Uist. His Royal Highness later visited Lochmaddy Surgery, North

KENSINGTON PALACE April 8: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. Colonel-in-Chief, King's Own Scottish Borderers. this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Jackson upon refinquishing his appointment as Commandng Officer of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Culonel Andrew Mackay upon assuming the ap-

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, AFASIC (Association for All Speech Impaired Children, today received Mrs Norma Corkish upon relinquishing her ap-pointment as Chief Executive. YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE April 8: The Duke of Kent. Vice-Chairman, The British Over-

seas Trade Board, this morning visited Rolls-Royce plc. Filton. Bristol. He was greeted on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr H. Elwes). His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Hewlett Packard

Laboratories, Filton Read, Stoke Gifford, Bristol. THATCHED HOUSE RICHMOND PARK

April 8: Princess Mesandra, Patron, this afternoon attended a Reception and Lunch, to mark the 30th Anniversary of the foundation of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, at the Calé Royal, Regent Street, London.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of Kent will visit the Purdey Factory at 238 Felgate Wo. at 11.00. For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal web site at: www.royal.gov.uk

School news The Cheltenham Ladics' College

The following awards have been offered by The Cheltenham Ladies' Collège and accepted for September 1990; Junior Academic Awards

September 1990:
Junior Academic Awards
Centenary Scholarship: Amanda Palin.
Chinese International School Hong Kong.
Major Scholarship: Lucy Hall. Salus
Grammar School. Remuda: Holly Robinson. Ashdell Preparatory School. Yorkshire
and Racial Jones. The Querns, Connecester
Minor Scholarships: Claudia Baies. The
Carridus School. Ranbury: Panthun Boundhou. Beaudesert Park. Minchinampuot:
Jesvica Burling. The Richard Pate. Chellenham: Eate Donnelly. Padswood Haugh.
Shropshine Nicola Madden. Grey House
Preparatory School. Bealingstoke: Amelia
Prestage, St Fauthy Cambridge, and Lmily
Price. Anthrice. Underham.
Awards: Rached de Courry. The QuerroCirencester. Eleanur Foster, Moorfield.

Awards Rachel de Courcy, The QuerreGrenester: Eleanur Foster, Monfield,
Orchaires Sarah Knight, Effebrook, Moretori-Marsh: Tara Morrison, GardenHuuse, London, and Sophie Taylor. St.
Michael's Jersey.
Junior Music Awards
Major Scholarships Bearrier Scalduni
Scaola Media Statale "Guise Danie",
Fotola, Italy, and Rebeen Tan The Purcell
School, London.
Minor Scholarships: Lucy Hall Sahus
Grammar School, Bermuda, Rachel Jone,
The Querris, Circuossier, and Emily Proc.
Aurhire. Chelenham
Siath Forna Awards
Awardss Rinance Kandya, Clifton College,
Bristol: Susannah Mecke, The Maymard
School, Everer, and Sarah Walkon, Loughhorough High School
Day Girl Awards Eleanor Bruce, King's
School, Glouester, and Annabel Wood,
Westonbirt, Tethury
Art Scholarship: Jeonna Ham, Tenbury
Welle High School.
Art Awards Fornna Fornna. Wells High School. Art Award: Victoria Sewell, Cardill High

Please apply to the Registrar for a prospectus and details of the 2000 scholar-ship and entrance examination arrange-



The Mayor of Doncaster. Councillor Yvonne Woodcock, in costume to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mansion House, the South Yorkshire town's most historic building. It will be open to the public all next week, with the Mayor and her footmen dressed for the part

University news Cambridge

Downing College
The following have been elected
Horiorary Fellows of Downing College Cambridge: Professor Colin Blakemore, FRS. Waynflete Professor of Physiology in the University of Oxford. Professor Alan Carrington, FRS. Poyal Society Research Professor in the University of Southampton Professor Richard Gregory, FRS Emeritus Professor of Neurophysi-ology in the University of Bristol. Professor Martin Kemp. FBA. Professor of History of Art in the University of Oxford. Sir Arthur Wans, KCMG, QC. formerly Legal Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Of-

London Ruyal Holloway College New Deans

Professor Denis Cosgrove, BA (Oxon). MA (Toronto), DPhil (Oxon). Geography, Dean of the Graduate School from October 1. 1998 to September 30, 2001 Dr Peier Dewey, BA (Exeter), PhD (Reading), History, Dean of the Faculty of History and Social Sciences

Professor Chris Carey, MA (Cambridge). PhD (Cambridge). Classics. Dean of the Faculty of Arts Dr David Shepheard, MA. PhD (Cambridge). Dean of Admissions

Promotions Dr David Denney, BSocSc (Warwick), MA, CQSW, PGCE, PhD (Kent) to Reader in Social and Public Policy

Mr John le Neve Johnson

Hohmiet will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, EC4, on Thursday, April 22, at noon.

Church news

The Rev Robert Marsden, Chap-lain, Fettes College (Edinburgh): to be Minister, Buxton (Trinity Chapel) Proprietary Chapel (Derby). The Rev Edward Mason, Vicar, Churchdown St Bartholomew and St Andrew (Gloucester): to be also Rural Dean of Gloucester North.

Appointment

Mr Peter Harhome to be High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago in succession to Mr Gregory Faulkner who moves to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Roman window-pane factory tracked down at York

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent

has been identified in York. the ancient Eburacum and one of the principal cities in the Empire's northernmost province. Although thousands of Roman glass vessels and numerous fragments of window-glass are known, this is the first manufactory whose location can be pinpointed. Evidence for the factory

A RARE Roman glass factory

was excavated 20 years ago. during investigation of the Coppergate site now occupied by the Jorvik Viking Centre, but has only recently been recognised. More than 180 pottery

sherds with melted glass adhering to them were identified as manufacturing debris. because some of the glass was incompletely fused. This "semi-reacted batch

material" was found redeposited in Viking levels of the famous "Coppergate Dig" site, and was initially thought to be of Viking date: but detailed scrutiny of the stratigraphic records for the site showed that a small but important amount of both the glass-melting pots and the batch material was securely stratified in Roman layers.

"This strongly suggested that glassmaking took place during the Roman period, and was confirmed when the pots were identified as 'Ebor ware, the local coarse pottery made between about AD 71 and 250." say Caroline Jackson and her colleagues in the Journal of Glass Studies.

The Coppergate area of the Roman city had other light industries as well, including potteries, and lay close to the riverbank, where products could be shipped.

The pots may have been made close by, but they were also chosen because they could withstand temperatures of 1,150 C without losing glass would have been cast in their shape. This quality moulds, leaving no characterexplains why the local domesistic waste products. tic pottery could be used to melt glass, and why there was

no need for any specialised industrial fabrics," the investi-The presence of tridymite and cristobalite, inversions of quartz that form at 867 and 1,250 degrees respectively. show that the raw materials had been heated almost to the latter temperature, but not for

"At these temperatures there can be no doubt that the aim was to produce glass, even if, in this case, the effort was not a success," they say. Glassmaking in antiquity

gators say.

is often claimed to have been a two-stage process, with the raw materials fused around 700-850 degrees to form a "frit", which removed impurities; the frit was then ground to powder and melted above 1.000 degrees to make glass. The York evidence suggests may have been used instead. something which experiment has shown to be feasible.

The chemical composition of the York glass was slightly different from the Roman imperial standard, with a higher level of potassium that may have been due to the presence of plant ash. It was not contamination from the crucibles, and these were in fact carefully chosen for their buff colour and lack of iron, which if it had melted into the glass would have imparted a distinctive blue-green tinge.

The York glass was clear to

light green, and may well have been intended for making window-panes rather than containers. The molten

"There would have been a great demand for window glass at the time," the investigators say. "Not only were parts of the fortress being rebuilt, but there was also much building activity in the civilian settlement — this was rapidly growing town which became the provincial capital of northern Britain." The main glassmaking cen-

tres of the Roman Empire were in Egypt and Judaea, where raw materials were abundant, but too bulky and caustic to ship easily: Alexandrian glass was the more expensive. This limited manufacture of raw glass might account for the uniform chemical composition of vessels, wherever they were blown.

Window-glass was cheaper than blown cups and vases, according to Roman price edicts, which would make shipping less profitable and tempting.

The slightly different composition of the York glass suggests a degree of experimentation, but more studies which discriminate between the two kinds of glass are needed, as are more directed investigations of the industrial process itself. "After all, this is probably the only glass in the Roman Empire whose place of manufacture can be exactly pinpointed," the investigators note.

Source: Journal of Glass Studies 40: 55-61.

Birthdays today Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 42 Lord Justice Simon Brown, 62:

Sir Brian Cubbon, former civil servant, 71; Lord Deramore, 88: Mr G.H. Edwards. Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 41: the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio. 90; Mr Robson Fisher, former Headmaster. Bryanston School, 78: Lord Firt, 73: Viscount Gage, 65: Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 58: Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 73; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 66; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathelyde University, 73; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 74; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 54; Mr Alan Knott, former cricketer, 53: Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 71; Mr Martin Margie-la, fashion designer, 45; Professor Basil Mitchell, FBA, philosopher of religion, 82: Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation. 67; Dr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 82; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 73; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 77; Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 74; Profes-sor K.G. Robbins, Senior Vice-Senior Vice. Chancellor. University of Wales, 59; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master. King Edward's School. Birmingham. 68: Miss Valorie Simulation beautiful for Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 62: Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 63: Professor D.M. Walker, QC, FBA, 79; Mr B.H. Weston. former chairman. Manweb. 69: Sir Richard Young. industrialist, 85.

Latest wills

Sir David Lane, of Great Shelford, £1,027,465 net. He left £5,000 each to Christian Aid. Save the Children Fund, Voluntary Service Overseas and Youth Clubs UK. Mr Alfred Gordon Askew of

Wingfield, Diss, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,307,155 net. Mrs Enid Isaaes, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,148,499 net. Mr Jacob King, of East Bergholt, Ipswich, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1.019.817 net.

Mrs Irene Mary Lawton, of Watford, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1.304.307 net. Mr Edward Carson Lister, of Coldharbour, Dorset, left estate

valued at EI,474,478 net. Jolanta Halina Neufeld, of London WI. left estate valued at £1,335,791 net.

LOYD - Anne suddenly bu

LLOVD - Anne suddenly but peacefully at home on April 2nd 1999. Beloved wife of David, darling Mummy to Simon. Caroline and Christopher and much loved Grannie Annie to Thomas, Harry and Holly. Private Cremation. Service of Thankagiving at Boxgrove Priory, nr. Chichester on Friday April 16th at 2.30pm. No flowers but donations, if desired for The Sussex Snowdrep Trust may be sent c/o

Trust may be sent c/o Kevin Holland Funera Service. 246 Chichester

Road, Bognor Regis PO21 5BA. Tel: 01243 868630.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.S.S. Bedeli and Miss CJA. Tracy

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Bedell, of Bishops Castle. Shropshire, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ralph Tracy, of Evesham, Worcestershire,

and Miss M. McL. Dougall

The engagement is announced between Damian, son of Mr and Mrs John Bradley, of Westburyon-Trym, Bristol, and Margaret. daughter of Mr and Mrs lain Dougail, of Copthorne, West

Mr G. Capilupo and Miss LJ. Pollington

The engagement is announced between Gerardo, elder son of Signora Giulia Capilupo and the late Signore Raffaello Capilupo, of Cosenza, Italy, and Louise, Iwin daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Pollington, of Frant, Sussex.

Captain Z.N. Catsaras, L.G.

and Miss N.N. Landell-Mills
The engagement is announced between Captain Zamir Nicholas Catsaras, The Life Guards, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Catsaras, of Ashtead, Surrey, and Natasha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Pierre Landell-Mills. of Washington, D.C.

Mr M.J.L. Chawner

and Miss G.J.P. Hare
The engagement is announced
between Matthew, elder son of Mr
and Mrs John Chawner, of Epsom, Surrey, and Philippa, only daughter of Mrs Tilly Hare, of Canon Pyon. Hereford, and the late Mr Richard Hare.

Mr P.E.H. Davies

and Miss L.E. Palmer The engagement is announced between Edward, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Hamilton Davies, of Bardfield Saling, Essex, and Lucy. daughter of Mr and Mrs Ross Palmer, of Melbourne, Australia. The marriage will take place in Melbourne, on January 8, 2000, followed by a blessing and reception in England next spring

Mr J.R. Plankett-Ernie-Erle-Drax and Miss N.M.S. Bogard
The engagement is announced

between Jeremy Ryton, second son of Mr and The Hon Mrs Henry Walter Plunkett-Ernle-Erle-Drax. of Charborough Park. Wareham, Dorset, and Natasha Michelle Sarah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Harvey Philip Bogard, of Carlton Hill, London.

Mr R.Gamba and Miss S.J. Bardwell The engagement is announced between Rumon, son of Mr

and Mrs Paul Gamba, of Crowborough, East Sussex, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Bardwell, of Darley, North Yorkshire. Mr H.P.B Martin

and Miss L.E. Roberts

The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Martin, of Stoke Charity, Hampshire, and Lucy, only daughter of John Roberts, of Lyford Cay, Bahamas, and Mrs Carole Roberts, of Owmby by Spital, Lincolnshire.

Mr N.J. Jeffers and Miss G.E. Buyton The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Air Commodore and Mrs. Peter R. Jeffers, of Northwood, Middleses, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Buston, of Endlesham

Mr S.M. Joyner and Miss A.K. Foley

Road, London.

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Dr and Mrs Miles Joyner, of Hucham, Devon, and Amelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Foley, of Cultompton. Devon

Mr M.J. Keller and Miss T.E. Sherriff

The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mrs Pat Keller and the late Mr Charles Keller, of Sandgate, Kent and Tiffany, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernon Sherriff, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

NT11 (3)

Mr E.H.T. Law and Miss L.N. Hine

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of the Hon Cecil and Mrs Law, of Brone Campden. Gloucestershire, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Hine, of Advent, North

Mr P.J.G. Law and Miss A.J. Vacher

The engagement is announced between Patrick, eldest son of Mi and Mrs G.A. Law, and Amanda. youngest daughter of Mr and Mr. P.J.S. Vacher. Mr P.W. Makin

and Miss E.J. Duffin

The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Rudney Makin, of Barnes, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Duffin, of Barnes.

Mr P.H. McKee and Miss N. Kopelowitz

The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Sylvia and Herbert McKee, of Epsom, Surrey and Natasha, daughter of Arnold and the late Anne Catherine Kopelowitz of Mill Hill, Middlesey Mr S. Scott Elliot and Miss M. Bonney

The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel A. Scott Elliot. Thornhill. Stirling, and Mrs A. Duffin, of County Down, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bonney, of Harare, Zimbabwe. Mr H.D. Stogdon and Miss M.A.T. Miles

The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs David Stoydon, of Witchamp ton. Dorset, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Miles, of Blechingley, Surrey. Captain B.S. Stokes and Fraulein S. Freise

The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Mr and Mrs H.C. Stokes, of Dyrham. Wiltshire, and Sascha, daughter of Herr and Frau Busso Freise, of Detroold, Germany.

Mr J.F. Towers and Miss A.M. Crowther

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Francis Towers, of Chipping Campden. and Mrs Kathleen Blinkhorn, of Lymm, Cheshire, and Alison. daughter of Dr and Mrs Andrew Crowther, of Tewkesbury.

François Rabelais, writer and

physician, Paris, 1553; Francis

Bacon, Lord Chancellor (6)8-2)

London, 162n; Dante Gabriel Ros-

setti. Pre-Ranhaelite poet and paint-

er, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent. 1882;

Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II. Rotterdam, 1649; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, Portsmouth, 1806; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, ISCI; Leon Blum, Prime Minister of France 1936-37 and 1938, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Prince-ton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63. London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gambia, South Australia, 1909. DEATHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, Lon-

Pau, France, 1940; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servani, author and controversialist. Hampstead, 1953. Frank Lloyd Wright, architect. Phoenix, Arizona, 1959, don, 1483: Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent). Careggi, Italy, 1492:

General Robert E. Lee capitulated to General Grant at Appomatiax Court House, Virginia, 1865. The Hudson Bay Company ceded its territory to Canada 1896. Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, 1940.

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For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psain 95.3 (NRSV).

BIRTHS

ALLMEY - On 5th April 1999 to Vicki-Marie (née Snell) and William, the gift of a daughter. Bethlyn Victoria - Anne.

BHOGAL - On 7th April, 2t The East Shore Hospital, The East Shore Hospital, Singapore, to Permjeet Kaur inée Mundevi and Satuam Singh, a beautiful baby, Kieran Singh, Siba 30z. grandson to Mr & Mrs Pritam S. Bhogal (Chelmsford) and Mr & Mrs Pritpaul S. Mundey (Leamington).

BRAMBLE - On 4th April at Kingston Hospital, to ba (née Meikie) and lan, a son, Max Henry, a brother for Dominic and

BRIGGS - On April 3rd, to Anabel (née Ziegler) and Daniel, a daughter, Honor Johanne, a sister for Hai, Wilkie and Arthur. CARR-JONES - On 31st March 1999, to Zoë (née Tomkins) and Charles, a

ughter. Jemima Ann

DAIBENY - On April 5th in Tunbridge Wells, to Clare ince Black) and Ciles, a beautiful daughter. Jessica

KELLER - On 25th March 1999. to Louise (née Symons) and Philip, a daughter, Lauren Trudy, a sister for Gabriel KHALIQUE-BROWN - On

Brown, a daughter,

April 2nd, to Nageena (née Khalique) and Andrew

BIRTHS

ACKNER - On April 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Frederique (née Moal) and Den, a daughter, Sophia, sister to Philip, Grogory and Ana. Thauks and LINDSAY - On March 19th a

The Portland Hospital, to Lucy inée Davenhill) and Ludovic, a son, Cosmo Simon, a brother for Merlin. MACCRINDLE - On March 19th 1999 to Alison and Guy, a daughter, Catherine Sarah.

PETERSON - On April 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Karen and Scott, a daughter, Olivia Bay. POWELL - On 1st April to Jo (née Shouler) and David. a beautiful daughter. Alice

RIMMER - On March 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Leslie Decker and Stephen, a daughter, Josephine, a sister for James.

ANNIVERSARIES

MARSHALL - To Jennifer Elizabeth on our first of many anniversaries.
Thank you, just for being you. All my love
Christopher.

ANNIVERSARIES

DOYLE:RUCKER - On 9th April 1949 at Holy Trinity Brompton, London SW7.

DEATHS

SHWORTH - Ann, widow John Ashworth, Dean of Trinidad. Funeral Colchester Crematorium 11 am 16th April 1989.

BELL - Richard Warwick
MB.BS., LRCP, MRCS.,
formerly of Notting Hill
Gate, died poacefully on
3rd April 1999 A darling
husband to Raiza and the
most loving father. A
unique man who gave
selflessly to all he knew.
Funeral at 1 pm on
Thursday 15th April 1999
at St Francis of Assissi,
Pottery Lane, Notting Hill
Gate, W11, Enquiries to
Chelsea Funeral Directors,
2606 Fulham Road, SW10.

of Rupert, Toby and Charlic. Cremation private to be followed later in the year by a Service of Remembrance for them

CARMICHAEL - Rosem Francis Scott aged 85 on April 3rd 1999 peacefully at the Ida Darwin Hospital, Cambridge Much loved aunt and great-sunt. Funeral at 4pm on Friday 16th April at the East Chapel Cambridge Crematorium. No flower please but donations in he memory may be sent to British Red Cross c o C.E. Fuller & Company, 23 Hall Street, Soham, Cambs.

BIAL - Peacefully on Thursday, 1st April, Moira Christian, aged 93, widow of Sir Walter Bull KCVO, deeply loved mother of Anthony, mother-in-law of Sue and Grandmother of Rupert, Toby and

CLARK - On April 4th 1999, in hospital in Exeter, Ronald Ernest Clark, Minst Fire E. aged 87, of Farnham Surrey. Dear husband of Mary and the late Gwen, father of Roger, Jill and Graham, and much loved by his sleft. loved by his eight grandchildren. Funeral Service at Aldershot Service at Aldershot Crematorium, on Tuesday April 13th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only: donations for either Amnesty International or Cysile Fibrosis Trust c/o Thorne-Leggett, Petersfield Road. Whitehill, Bordon, GU35 9AR.

> CRAWFORD - Colin William died peacefully at home on April 7th 1999, much loved husband of Diana and husband of Diama and father of Joanna, James and Hugo. Private family cremation, a service of thanksgiving will be amounced later. Enquiries C.J. Williams tel: (01952) 505835.

> > DALGLEISH - Jamie suddenly DALGLESH - Jamie suddenly in hospital on 7th April.
> > Adored Husband of Jane and loving Father of Martin and Richard and a much loved Father-In-law and Grandfather. At the request of the family a private funeral service is to be held. A memorial service to be arranged at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations to the RNLL Donations and all enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 33 St Isan Road, Heath, Cardiff, 01222 462100.

DOUGLAS - Mabel Jos

passed away at home on Sunday 4th April aged 62 years. She will be sadly missed by her family, friends and all colleagues at Rank Organisation. Miss Dougles will be taken into St Columbas R.C. Church St Columbas R.C. Church on Monday 12th April at 5pm, followed by a Requiem Mass on Tuesday 13th April at 9.15 am. Then interment at Blacon Cemetery, Chester. Family flowers only please. All enquiries to Dutton and Hallmark, 80 Faulkner Street, Hoole, Chester, tel: (01244) 310968.

DUGGAN - Charles aged 77 years. Died after a short illness on Maundy Thursday, 1st April 1999. Dearly beloved husband of Anne, much loved brother of Mortimer (deceased), Margaret (deceased), Margaret (deceased), Patrick and Joseph. Requiem mass, 11am Thursday 15th April at St James's Church, Popes Grove.

Popes Grove.
Twickenham. Thence to
Teddington Cemetery.
Shacklegate Lane. All

enquiries and flowers if desired to Andrew Holm and Son 0181 572 3277. DUNHAM - Anthony H_M_ of Brentwood, Essex, passes away peacefully at home on 1st April 1999 aged 69 years. Funeral Service to take place at South Essen Crematorium. Upminster at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 14th April. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation and sent c/o Bennetts (Brentwoo Ltd., 120 High Street, Brentwood CM 14 4AS. netts (Brentwood)

GRIINSON-SCHEIN - Regina on April 7th 1999 aged 90 peacafully at her bome in Highgate. Dearly loved mother of Clive and the

mother of Cilve and the late Sandra, devoted grandmother of Sarah, Miriam and David and dear friend of her daughter-in-law Penny. We all loved her very much. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Funeral at Golder Green Crematorium Tuesday April 13th at 12 noon. Enguiries to Leverton & Sons Ltd. tel: (0181) 444-5753.

KENTRELD - B.E. (Betty), very dear sister of Madge and Fred, died peacofully at the Royal Free Hospital Hampstead on April 4th. Cremation Golders Green Crematorium on 15th April at 2.15 pm.

LEITH-BUCHANAN - At home on 6th April 1999 Barbara Deane, widow of Sir George Leith-Buchanan Bart., in her 96th year. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mungo's Episcopal Church, Alexandria on Monday 12th April at 11.30um to which all friends and neighbours are respectfully invited. Thereafter cremation private.

LYTHE - Peacefully after a abort illness in Kings Cross Hospital, Dundee on Wednesday April 7th 1999, Joan of Brottghty Ferry, Dundee, Beloved wife of the late Professor Edgar Lythe and a dear mother of Charlotte. Funeral service on Wednesday April 14th in The University Chaplaincy, Cross Row, Dundee at 11.30 am, thereafter in Dundee Crematorium at 12.30 pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only respectfully invited Family flowers only

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

ADDLETON - Rottald Geo MDDLFTON - Ronald George D.S.C., died on 31st March 1999 peacefully at home in London aged 85. Widower of dearly loved Sybil Middleton (née Summerscale) who died in 1976, uncle of David Summerscale and great-

Summerscale and greatuncle of David
Summerscale and greatuncle of Emily and
Tristan. Senior Partner of
Coward Chance 1972 to
1980. Cremation private.
A service of thanksgiving
will be held on Tuesday
27th April at 12 noon at St
Botolph without
Aldersgate London EC1.
No Rowers please but
donations if desired to
Staying Put, Anchor Trust,
Fountain Court, Oxford
Spires Business Park,
Kiddington, Oxford, OX5
1NZ.

PATON - (Thomas) Angus
(Lyali). Passed peacefully
away in Jersey on 7th
April 1993 in his 94th year
after a wonderful life.
Greatly loved and much
missed by his daughters
and sons, grandchildren
and great-grandchildren.
Funeral Service Reistives and friends
wishing to attend the wishing to attend the funeral service are invited to meet at St Brelade's Parish Church, Jersey, on Thursday 15th April at 130 are Delegated.

11.30 am. Private cremation follows. Family flowers to be sent to H.W. Maillard & Son Ltd. Funeral Directors. 34
Great Union Road. St
Holler, Jersey, tel: 01534
737291 by 9.30 am or donations in ileu, if desired may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QG, A momorial service will take place in England at a later

PATON - On April 6th at Chapel Amble Major James Richard Paton. The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment. Husband of Sheilagh. A man of outstanding courtage

HILLIPS - At The County Hospital Lincoln, on April 3rd 1999 Allan David Morgan aged 73 years. Much loved husband of

Much loved husband of Mona, loving father of Joanna and Dayld and grandfather of Claire. Funeral Service at St. Thomas Chapel of Ease, Heighington on Wednesday 14th April at 1.45 pm followed by cremation at Lincoln Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Donations if wished to St. Barnabas Hospice, Lincoln. Enquiries tel: 01522 520606.

PRICHER - Elleen Mary of Well Cottage Liphook Hampshire peacefully on 6th April 1999 aged 93 years. Dearest sister of Tony and Diana and lifelong friend of Marjorie Florence Epps. Funeral Setvice on Friday 16th April at 8th Meyer Church Service on Friday 16th
April at St Marys Church
Bramshort at 1pm
followed by cremation at
Guildiord Crematorium
2pm. Flowers to Gould and
Chapman Funeral
Directors of Avanue
House Headley Reed House, Headley Road, Grayshott, Surrey. Donations if desired to St Marys Church Branishott.

Timothy and Miranda. Funeral to be held at 11 sm on 15th April at 5t Michael's Church. Lower Machen, Newport, Gwent Donations to W.R.V.S., Milton Hill House, Milton Hill Absorber Hill, Abingdon. Oxfordshire or The National Trust, Membership Department. PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent. Enquiries tel: H.I. & E. Piper 101222) 862258.

POTTER - Edith, widow of the late Charles Potter, died on 27th March at the

age of 94 years. Loved mother of Anthes, Janet,

48.5 g 4.2

-

PERSONA

ROSBOTTOM - Lorna G died tragically in a car crash on Thursday Ist April aged 84. A genealogist and local historian who did much for her local commu Tintinhuil, Somerse was a generous spirit who was much loved and respected by family and friends. The funeral is to be held on Thursday 15th April at 2.30 pm at 5t Margaret's Church. Tintinhull, near Yeoril. Someract, No flowers please but donations in lieu to be made to Tintinhull Village. Tintinhuli Village Millennium Fund c/o David Rivett Funeral Director, 30 Lyde Road, Yeovil, Somerset, tek (01935) 433737.

SIMPSON SRASS - On April 7th aged 77 years Dr. Alfred McKillop (M2C) Simpson-Brass of Newcastle upon Tyne. Loving husband of Elizabeth.

مكذا من الاصل

SIR JAMIE FLANAGAN

Sir Jamie Flanagan, CBE, Chief Constable of the RUC, 1973-76, died on April 4 aged 85. He was born on January 15, 1914.

SIR JAMIE FLANAGAN was the first and as yet only - Roman Catholic to be Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He was well-liked by both communities, and it was his job to enforce the rule of law at the height of the Troubles. In this time he had to respond to two events which (for different reasons) threatened the efficacy and integrity of the RUC: the Ulster Workers' Council strike of 1974, and the talks between the Provisional IRA and the British Govern-

ment the following year.

The strike of May 1974 — called by lovalists unhappy with the Sunningdale power-sharing agreement - succeded in breaking the new executive. Much criticism was directed at the RUC, whose members were seen talking to masked members of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association at the barricades. Flanagan rebutted accusations that he had failed to confront the strike properly. He denied any collusion between the RUC and loyalist paramilitaries, pointing out that not a single member of his force had mutinied to join the strikers.

Later that year the IRA declared a ceasefire. Flanagan was one of the first to express scepticism publicly, proceeding to increase the number of police road checks in West Beliast. He was wary of the ramifications of dialogue with the IRA, believing that the "incident centres" established by the Government to combat local crime would only consolidate the republicans' grip on Catholic areas, thus undermining the position of the RUC. He also voiced opposition to the reduction in the number of troops in republican areas, and was reported to have been furious when Merlyn Rees, then Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested that certain republican leaders should be issued with firearm certificates.

Flanagan became alarmed at rumours that such moves were part of a plan to replace the RUC. This was denied by Rees, though Flanagan's departure in May 1976 was an unhappy and controversial affair.
It was reported that he had wanted to stay on, but Rees sought his removal because Flanagan refused to implement measures which were widely supposed to form parts of a ceasefire deal with the IRA. It was a strange way to go: he had said when he took up the position in 1973 that he would stay for only two years.

James Bernard Flanagan was born in Londonderry, the son of a sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary. He joined the RUC in 1933, and by 1942 was a district inspector. After the war, in which he served on attachment to the War Office. he was seconded to the Foreign and Colonial Office, and went to Greece as part of the British police mission to help to restructure the police force there.

In 1952 he returned to the RUC and after some time in Co Londonderry and

West Belfast he was promoted to county inspector and transferred to police head-quarters in Belfast. He rose through the ranks of chief superintendent and assistant chief constable, and by 1970 he was deputy chief constable.

Flanagan's appointment to Chief Constable was meant to be an encouraging signal to the Catholics in Ulster, and in many ways he was very successful. He managed to initiate formal contacts with the police force of the Irish Republic; he was popular among both Catholics and Protestants — the former regarding him as a man who would gave them a fair deal, the latter welcoming his readiness to enforce the law. At the time of his control the law has both the SOLE controversial departure, both the SDLP leader Gerry Fitt and the Rev Ian Paisley of the DUP railied round to support him.

For security reasons Flanagan attended Mass at a different church each week. On one occasion the police had to raid a house adjacent to one of Flanagan's more regular churches, where they discovered notes documenting his churchgoing schedule.

A more serious security threat came in July 1974, when it was discovered mid-flight - that an aircraft on which he was travelling was carrying a bomb. The British Airways jet, bound for London with 85 passengers, made an emergency landing at Manchester. Following its evacuation a 21b gelignite bomb was found under a seat. The device had failed to explode because the drawing pin used in the timing device had a layer of paint on it, preventing the current from making a loop through the watch hand.

After his retirement Flanagan and his wife settled eventually in Suffolk, where he did much work for the Police Athletic Association and for the Sue Ryder Foundation.

He was appointed MBE in 1952, advanced to OBE in 1968 and to CBE in 1973. He was knighted in 1975. He married Florence Acheson in 1938; they had two sons and a daughter.



Flanagan: respected by both communities

RUTH GIPPS

Ruth Gipps. MBE, composer and conductor. died on February 23 aged 78. She was born in Bezhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, on February 20, 1921.

AS THE first woman to conduct at the Festival Hall. and as founder of the London Repertoire training orchestra. Ruth Gipps — or "Wid" as she was almost universally known - was an inspiration to generations of budding musicians and composers, men and women alike.

Formed in 1955, the London Repertoire was aimed both at young would-be musicians and at out-of-work orchestral players, with the aim of cultivating a high standard of playing and sight-reading. Double basses, are you sure that A is meant to be natural?" she would boom out over her all-male orchestra.



Her Chanticleer Orchestra. which she founded in 1961, won her much acclaim and performed many times on the South Bank. With both of her orchestras she regularly promoted the works of 20thcentury British composers and gave opportunities to young soloists in need of their first break; among them were the singer Jane Highfield, the cellists Alexander Baillie and Julian Lloyd Webber and the

violinist José Luis García. Born into a musical family — her Swiss mother was a pianist and ran a music school at their home in Bexhill — Ruth Dorothy Louisa Gipps insisted on being allowed to play the piano as soon as she could reach the keys. At the age of four she made her public debut in London, and at eight she published her first composition The Fairy Shoemaker. At 16 she went to the Royal College of Music, where and by their son.

her teachers included Gordon Jacob, Vaughan Williams and Leon Goossens. In 1942 Sir Henry Wood conducted her Knight in Armour at the Last Night of the Proms.

She was for several years first oboe and cor anglais player with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, as well as being chorus director of the City of Birming-ham Choir and conductor of the Co-op Orchestra and Listener's Club Choir. It was while at Birmingham that she realised she would have to abandon her hoped-for career as a piano soloist; an old childhood injury to her shoulder was giving her trouble with her right hand.

On returning to London in 1954 she started working as a guest conductor. Despite the resistance she encountered, Gipps became the first woman to conduct the all-male London Symphony Orchestra (in 1957). She later conducted her own Third Symphony for a BBC broadcast.

Her strength lay in her enthusiasm. Never one to sit around waiting for the masses to come to her, she took classical music to the people, in the form of lunchtime concerts and in evening classes; and when she conducted, it was usually from memory, even with such works as Sir Arthur Bliss's Colour Symphony.

She taught counterpoint and musical history at Trinity College, then the Royal College of Music and, finally, became Co-Principal at Gypsy Hill. She was made chairman of the Composers' Guild of Great Britain in 1967, the year in which the guild opened the British Music Information Centre in Stratford Place in Central London, now a treasure trove of British 20thcentury compositions.

After retiring from the London Repertoire in 1986, Gipps taught herself to play the organ. She also became musical director of the Heathfield Choral Society, near her home in East Sussex. In 1988 she conducted a well-received concert of music by women composers of the past 300 years at St John's, Smith

Souare. In 1981 she was appointed MBE for her services to music. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Robert Baker, a former clarinettist,

DR CHARLES WARREN



A group photograph of the 1936 Everest expedition at base camp. Warren is standing far right in the back row.

Dr Charles Warren, physician and mountaineer, died on March 30 aged 92. He was born on

April 15, 1906.

CHARLES WARREN coupled a lifelong love of mountains, literature and art with an eminent career in medicine. As a young and newly qualified houseman he gained leave from Bart's to join the three British attempts on Everest in the 1930s. (One of the hospital's senior surgeons at the time was Geoffrey Keynes, himself an enthusiastic climber and

friend of George Mallory.)
All three expeditions were dogged by bad weather, and none came even close to success, but the experience roped Warren into the climbing elite of the day, along with such men as Shipton, Tilman, Smythe and Odell.

Warren came to the, attention of the Everest Committee with his success on Marco Pallis's expedition to the Gangotri district of the Himalayas in 1933, when he and Colin

Kirkus reached the summit of Bhagirathi III. Their route demanded severe rock climbing at more than 21,000ft, an outstanding achievement and perhaps the most difficult technical climb in the Himalayas at that time.

The Everest 1935, 36 and 38 were on the Tiberan flank, and twice Warren reached the North Col only to be beaten back by the early arrival of the monsoon. He was a prudent judge of conditions, and not one to press on when faced with an avalanche sweeping the ascending tracks and tearing the north face of the mountain.

Even so, he and his companions made the first ascents of a number of lesser peaks in the Everest region. Quite recently he was delighted to receive a card from a university party exploring the same area in the hope of claiming virgin summits, only to find that Warren had beaten them to it years earlier.

On those early Everest attempts he became a close

friend of one of the sherpas. and some 18 years later. after Sherpa Tenzing Norgay had conquered Everest with Hil-

lary, the Warrens were delight-

ed to welcome him to their home at Felsted in Essex. Warren continued to climb until his early eighties, regularly visiting the Alps, twice travelling to Kenya and often to the Lake District and Scotland. Notable were his traverse of the Cuillin Ridge at the age of 72, two Scottish ascents four years later in his 1938 Everest boots, and his final rock climb in the Lake District on his 80th birthday, properly celebrated with cham-

pagne on the summit. During the war, Warren served as a physician at the emergency medical services hospital in Bishop's Stortford. where he met his wife, Dorothy, who was a radiographer. He subsequently opted to specialise in paediatrics and was appointed consultant in Chelmsford and then to the staff at Colchester. For the rest of his clinical career, his area extended over a large part of Essex, and his main unit at watercolours by Edward Dayes of Hawes Water and of Chelmsford became renowned for performing exchange blood transfusions on infants Derwent Water, and some with neonatal jaundice.

His work with Peter Broughton made a great con-tribution to paediatrics by demonstrating the benefits of ultraviolet light on jaundiced infants, so reducing the need for exchange transfusions. Later he and Broughton collaborated with Walshe in meticulous studies of the management of patients with Wilson's disease, first using penicillamountains, medicine and art mine and subsequently with other chelating agents. Added to this heavy clinical load was a full role as administrator. children.

Even after his retirement he took on responsibility for developing the excellent medical library facilities the unit now enjoys.

But beyond his medical career there remained his enduring delight in mountains and in the art and literature that they have inspired. He had a long association with the Wordsworth Trust at Dove Cottage, Grasmere, where he pursued his interest in the Romantic writers and poets especially Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley and Mary Shelley - who visited the Alps and

helped to form a fuller appreciation of them. Warren was a man of relatively modest means, but his acquisitions as a collector demonstrated a shrewd eye for quality. He presented more than 200 items - including both texts and pictures relating to the Romantic movement to the Wordsworth Trust. The pictures include Gainsbor-ough's Langdale Pikes, David Cox's oil of Crossing Morecambe Sands and a late in 1992-95. Turner watercolour of Lake Como. There are also excellent

exquisite drawings, such as those of Borrowdale by George Barrett Jr and Joshua Cristall. Warren also presented important pictures by Ruskin to the Alpine Club. He was an honorary member and vicepresident of the club and an indefatigable curator of its pictures. A kindly, good-humoured man, he wound the three strands of his interests -

into a life of achievement. His wife predeceased him by seven years. There were no

AMBROISE ROUX

Ambroise Roux, French industrialist, died on April 4 aged 77. He was born on Jame 26, 1921

AMBROISE ROUX was for decades the ultimate man of influence in the overlapping world of French politics and business. He was by turns outspoken, cunning and arrogant, but above all a connoisseur of the good things in life, from cigars to beautiful women. He created a mighty lobby of bosses and was consulted by presidents and prime minis-ters of Right and Left. He was relied on by fellow tycoons for advice on tricky legislation, particularly tax laws, and for help in seeing off hostile bids. He was extremely successful in wringing concessions from governments, particularly on corporate taxes and stock options.

He may have preached the need for greater globalisation of French business and the primacy of profits, but Roux was at heart a Paris-based networker par excellence. He defended the old order of the patronat, particularly at the time of the massive wave of nationalisations of banks and companies by the new Socialist Government in 1982. That wave included Roux's own Compagnie Générale de l'Eléctricité, a large conglomerate producing turbines for the state electricity utility, locomo-tives for French Railways, telephone exchanges for the post office and much more.

François Mitterrand, the Socialist President, was quoted at the time as saying that he could rule France with 300 Roux out his own people. estimate of "those who count" at 20 to 30. He wasted no time after the takeovers, hiring the Hotel Crillon in Paris for the founding meeting of his Association Française des Entreprises Privees (AFEP).

Almost single-handedly he rallied the dispirited, dispossessed bosses, persuading them to wait for better days. These came finally with the first wave of privatisations of 1986-88, after the Gaullists and their allies had regained control of the National Assembly. The privatisations were conducted by the new conservative Finance Minister Edouard Balladur, who had been employed by Roux during his period out of office. Balladur continued the process as Prime Minister

Roux was particularly close to President Georges Pompidou. Both men, erudite and bon vivant, liked to pose occasionally as wily Auvergne "peasants", a kind of private joke. During the 1970s, Roux was officially President-Directeur-Général of CGE (laser Alcatel) and unofficially French Minister of Industry.

He usually had a big say in government-led industrial restructuring. The young Jacques Chirac, then in Pompidou's "cabinet", became an early admirer of Roux's backroom skill at achieving consensus. Many of the captains of industry in France today owe much to Roux's early patron-

age or career advice, and in

point him to their boards. Ambroise Roux was the only son of a rich company director who had married a member of the Poulenc family, one half of the later Rhone-Poulenc pharmaceutical giant. He attended the Ecole Polytechnique, and when the school moved to Lyons in 1940, Roux met a future business ally in Guy Dejouany, who later ran Cornpagnie Générale des Eaux. another big conglomerate, now Vivendi. Jean-Marie Messier,

return they hastened to ap-

the current Vivendi chairman, is a one-time Roux protégé. After a short period in ministerial office during the Fourth Republic, Roux was hired by an old schoolfriend at the Compagnie Générale d'Electricité (CGE) and rose to the top without ever investing a single

franc in his own company. In 1969, he divided up a whole industrial sector, keep-



ing trains and turbines plus telephone equipment for CGE. but leaving armaments to his rival. Thomson. He tried and failed later to corner both nuclear and computer markets in France.

His AFEP lobby became the most powerful in the country with prominent patrons queue-ing to join. These people didn't really know one another until I brought them together." he said once. The organisation now has the 60 top French businessmen as members.

But as the business world became less cosy, Roux gradually began to lose his hold. He championed the maintenance of old-style cross-shareholdings between big companies, arrangements designed to block outsiders seeking to break into the club. But these core shareholdings, or noyaux durs, fell out of favour as a much more aggressive form of capitalism gained ground in France, as is evident in the current French banking wars and the fierce fight between the luxury-goods tycoons Pin-ault and Arnault. Roux could no longer keep these people in check, although he sat on almost all their boards.

Late in life he developed a passion for the paranormal, about which he wrote books. That obsession and his royalist views were considered quaint eccentricities, but his recent endorsement of a right-wing alliance to include the extreme right Front National lost him support and he was being eased out of AFEP at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

CONGRATULATIONS

FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE **DEATHS** VALKER - Richard (Dick)
Holmden of Edgefield,
Norfolk, previoualy of
Surrey, peacefully on
April 6th aged 72 years.
Hisbend of Anne. Service Chicago, Saigon, All pop & spo We deliver, 0171 930 8636 CORPORATE HOSPITALITY ALL TICKETS 5 NATIONS WORLD CUP Husband of Anne. Service of Thanksgiving at Edgefield Church, Norfolk on Friday April 16th at 3pm. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Services, Holt, Norfolk, Tel: (01263) RUGBY GRAND PRIX FOOTBALL, ASCOT CRICKET, ETC 711992. CRICKET, E10 TEL 01675 443845 YOUNG - Auriol Vane Inée Hay Drummond) suddenly on 4th April 1999 aged 65 years. Much loved mother of Louise and Andrew. There will be no memorial **ALL TICKETS** service. A requiem mass will be held at the Carmelite Church, 41 Kensington Church Street. London W8 on Wednesday **5 NATIONS** ENG Y SWEDEN BRITISH GRAND PRIX ROYAL ASCOT BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN 14th April at 11 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to 0171 283 4040 West London Action for West London Action for Children (WLAC) c/o Camp Hopson, 90 West Street, Newbury, RG14 1HA, tel: (01635) 522210. CREDIT CARD HOTUNE WANTED Chit COATS, for costs purchase best price paid. Please sen enquires à details to box 573? TICKETS FOR SALE

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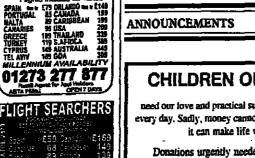
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FLIGHTS





CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS

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...

Donations urgently needed by the British Kidney Patient Association Bordon, Hants. GU35 9JZ. Reg. Charity No. 270288



GAINSBOROUGH RECOVERED

We have received the following statement-The portrait by Gainsborough of the Duchess of Devonshire, which was stolen from the premises of Messrs. Thomas Agnew and Sons so long ago as 1876, has been discovered; and we understand that within a short time it will again be in the possession of the well known firm in Bond Street.

"The Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard ascertained that the stolen canvas was hidden in a town in the western States of America, and the English officials, acting in conjunction with Mr W.A. Pinkerton, of the National Detective Agency of Chicago, informed Messrs. Agnew of the fact. One of the partners immediately proceeded to America to identify the picture, and he is now on his way to London with it in his custody.

"It will be remembered that this painting was purchased at the Wynn Ellis sale for £10,605, a sum which up to that date was the highest ever paid at Christie's for a single picture. The canvas was cut out of its frame one night while on exhibition in Bond Street, and all efforts have hitherto proved fruitless to discover it.

At 6 o'clock yesterday evening Mr. C.

ON THIS DAY

April 9, 1901

How a famous Gainsborough portrait, stolen from Agnews in London in 1876, was finally recovered from America after clever work by Scotland Yard and Pinkertons, the famous American detective agency.

Moreland Agnew arrived at his residence, Westbourne Terrace, bringing from America the long-lost portrait. The picture was removed from the train at Willesden for safety and was at once taken to Messrs. Agnew's bankers. Mr. Moreland Agnew told a Press representative that he had not the slightest doubt about the genuineness of the picture. He added that he went out to the States about three weeks ago to try to identify the painting.

This he had done at Chicago.

Mr W. Lockett Agnew said that he had seen the picture which his cousin had brought

over, and he was certain that it was the one stolen from his firm. He said that there was no foundation for the story about his firm's having paid a reward of £5,000 for the recovery of the painting; it would not amount to £1,000; in fact, he did not think they would have to pay much.

A Reuter telegram, dated New York, April 8. states:

The circumstances of the recovery of Gainsborough's lost Duchess are as follows: Detective William Pinkerton was in conversation with Pat Sheedy when the latter related the manner in which he had been able to repay an obligation which had rested on him for years, and mentioned the name of the man to whom he had been indebted. At this point Pinkerton exclaimed: "That is the man who stole the Gainsborough." Sheedy immediately volunteered to secure the return of the picture proper arrangements could be made, heady said his friend had turned over a new leaf and was now living honestly in England. He was the father of children who were nearly grown up and were ignorant of their father's offence. Sheedy first exacted a promise from Pinkerton that no attempt should be made to discover the identity of his friend while Sheedy was opening the negotiations. He made a trip to England and found that his friend was more than willing to permit the return of the picture.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Shoplifters reveal their tricks and scams (ITV, 9pm). Review: Paul Hoggart found Simon's

Journey inspiring......Pages 50, 51

OPINION

The long campaign

Hopes of Kosovo peace moves

■ Nato cleared a "safe corridor" through its bombardment in the hope that the Cypriot mission to Belgrade would win the release of the three captured American soldiers, as President Yeltsin announced in Moscow that he was working on a new peace initiative to end the crisis in Kosovo.

Although there was scepticism that either move would bring positive results, the developments came on a day when Belgrade claimed that peace had been restored and that the offensive against the KLA had been completed

Doubts over mortgage rate cut

Homeowners have been left in the dark as to whether they will enjoy another reduction in their mortgage payments after big lenders failed to follow the Bank of England in cutting inter-

Haque's strike

William Hague made a pre-emptive strike in the Newark by-election campaign but had to share star billing with the Tories' first woman communications chief, Amanda Piatell.....

Lawrence case leads

Police investigating the murder of Stephen Lawrence were following up new lines of inquiry after the five suspects broke their public silence about the killing Page 2

Owen booked

Michael Owen, the teenage football prodigy, has signed sport's most lucrative publishing deal. worth more than El million for three books...

Pregnancy warning

Women who drink a glass of wine each day during their pregnancy could be doing more harm to their babies than if they smoked, according to research which says that a woman who drinks between five and seven units a week risks damaging the central nervous system of her child... Page 10

Royal memories

The Prince of Wales took time off from official duties to visit the old friend who taught him about crofting and helped him to practise his faltering Gaelic: Donald "Splash" McKillop, a crofter with whom he stayed during a private visit 12Page 11

Bleak drama

British television shows are considered too "gritty, dark and socio-political" by many foreign channels, a government-backed report said yesterday. Home-made drama, in particular, is regarded as "non-escapist"......

Supermarket inquiry

An inquiry into charges of profiteering and anti-competitive practices by supermarkets has raised issues that merit further investigation, the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday... ... Page 14

Cot blamed

The collapse of a cot from Mothercare was to blame for the death of a nine-month-old baby, an inquest has been told. Alexandra Harvey choked to death when the side of her cot fell across her neck as she played in it.....

Nuclear 'theft'

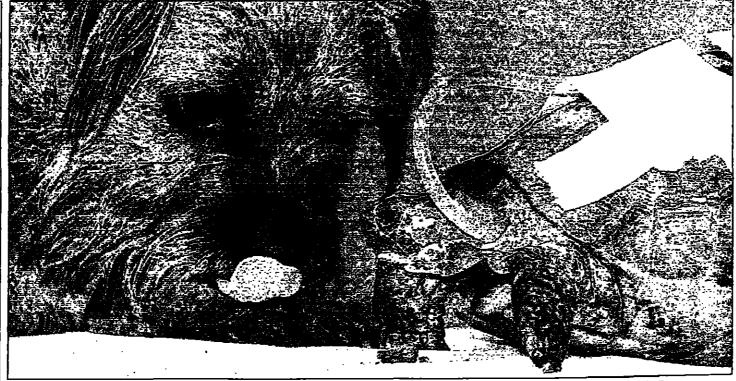
Fresh allegations that China stole top-secret nuclear weapons research from the United States in order to improve Beijing's neutron bomb placed a new strain on an already tense visit to the US by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime ... Page 18

Stealing to order

The theft of two paintings from the Russian Museum in St Petersburg this week is part of a new trend of stealing to order, experts . Page 18

This sporting life on the sofas

■ The nation's sofas are set to groan under the weight of the male population this weekend as an unprecedented number of top sporting competitions coincide. Sporting anoraks could be trapped in a remote-control quandry as they frantically flick from the Grand National to the FA and Scottish Cup semi-finals and on to the Brazilian Grand Prix ...



Elizabeth, an 80-year-old tortoise whose shell was broken during an operation to remove cancerous ovarian cells, with Cactus, a four-year-old border terrier, at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association conference in Birmingham yesterday

BUSINESS

ECB cuts: The European Central Bank surprised markets with a larger-than-expected half-point cut in its benchmark interest rate, to 2.5 per cent, in a bid to stimulate economic growth in Europe and boost industry confidence......Page 27 Sainsbury Jobs: J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, to set to announce up to 300 redundancies after deciding to close the headquarters of Savacentre......Page 27 Digital subscribers: ONdigital, the television service, said that it had chalked up 110,000 subscribers since its autumn launch.... Page 28 Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 35.30 to 6437.9. The pound rose 1.52 cents to \$1.6108 and 0.21p against the euro

to 67.25p. The sterling index rose to

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Golf: Colin Montgomerie was among the early leaders in the first round of the Masters with a two-under-par 70, a score matched by José Maria Olazábal..... Page 52 Rugby union: Barrie-Jon Mather, the Sale centre and former rugby league international, will win his first England cap against Wales after the withdrawal of Jeremy Gus-

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Tomorrow in

The Saturday Times

Meet

TRAVOLTA

the family man

IN THE GLOSSY

MAGAZINE

Brutally expelled from their country the refugees face a grim choice between seeking refuge in neighbouring states, being settled further afield in Europe, and for those

FEATURES

Splashing out: Is there any point in paying pots of money for designer Page 20

Lookalikes: Baby-faced blondes have become television's elite corps - deployed by broadcasting bosses to ease the most desperate situations, says Celia Brayfield. Page 21 Joe Joseph: "I can recommend an expensive night at the theatre if you don't mind your evening being regularly interrupted by bronchial outbursts loud enough to drown out even Ethel Merman"...... Page 21

MEDIA Nato news: A lot of the media's analysis of the Balkans conflagration consists simply of discussion of Nato strategy, just one of the instances leading to criticism that western news outlets are toeing Nato's line...

Lost boys: What makes girls get better passes than boys in most subjects? New research offers some intriguing answers...

of fighting age, joining the Kosovo Liberation Army which is fast re-- The Irish Times

The odds are still strongly in favour of Labour forming the first Scottish executive. The struggle to be the largest single party in the parliamentary is, however, by no means settled

Asian enterprise

The success of Britain's irrepressible Asian millionaires serves not only as a mute reproach to the insular who once feared their immigration. It offers evidence of the benefits of working together Page 23

No time for blame

Good working relations with the Macedonian Government are indispensable. However rough the Maredonian handling of Blace, that foetid encampment did urgently need

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

The collapse of "bombing alone" has been spectacular. The misreading of Mr Milosevic by Nato deserves to rank with Gallipoli and a Pearl Harbor in the annals of military incompetence......Page 22

ANATOLE KALETSKY I welcome the Bank of Englands

decision to add more monetary fuel to an economy that may already be set for take-off

tractiveness"....

city charters

GILES COREN And think of the suffering that could be alleviated by lines like "more than three pints of Caffreys

may cause delusions of sexual at-

.Page 22

Sir Jamie Flanagan, Royal Ulster Constabulary; Dr Charles Warren, physician and mountaineer: Ambrolse Roux, French industrialist; Ruth Gipps, conductor Page 25

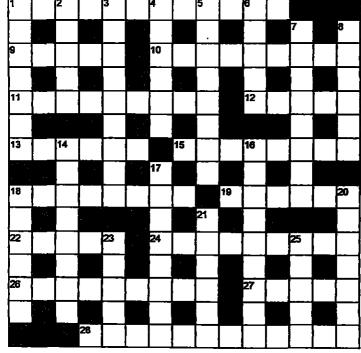
SOLET TERS Balkans war; business and EMU; police racism; British Museum's Great Court; political party logos;

THE PERSON NAMED IN 10.15.23.27.29.46. Bonus: 38

..... Page 23

Micż.

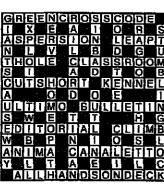
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,073



ACROSS

- 1 Orchids in woman's hair (5.7). 9 Amusing American serving mush-
- rooms, say (5). 10 Of necessity, wine-making does
- 11 Floods calamitous for wolves (9). 12 Crowd made to move (5). 13 Knocking back tablet providing stimulus (6).
- i5 Clubs with spatial problem -QPR, for example (8). 18 Bill cutting charge for profession-
- al work (8). 19 Way of approaching onset of illness (6).
- 22 Amateur soldiers given backing of the monarch (5). 24 Old bat reported back with a black eye (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,072



26 Not embarrassed to be struck on a girl (9).

27 Boat that, with one more, would be half seas over (5). 28 One making new production of

old musical that may create a

shock (4.8).

- Steal away the moment the bal-
- loon goes up (4-3). 2 Stupid child caught in sandhili 3 Miser fell on leader of pirates (9).
- with order (6). 5 Supplier of nursery with lots of children to occupy (8). 6 Finished without beginning to be

Casual waiter finally appears

- come relaxed (5). 7 Work like a robot, as co-driver?
- 8 Spreads out second trousers (6). 14 Take a day off in this spring time? Just the opposite (4,4).
- l6 Clergyman resting as a duty (9). 17 Hot day for a speed merchant (8). 18 Aim at prize offering university

entry (6).

- 20 Lee in retreat (7). 21 Show resentment of new wife in speech (6). 23 Climber has trouble ascending
- last stages of Annapurna (5). 25 Person driving tucked into hamburgers (5).

Times Two Crossword. page 52

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World City Weather 🖨 🖦 🖦 🗠

AA Car reports by fax

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 7.46 pm Moon sets: 11.44 am Last quarter today London 7.46 pm to 6.16 am Bristol 7.56 pm to 6.27 am Edmburgh 8.06 pm to 6.22 am Manchester 7.58 pm to 6.22 am

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□ London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England: any early cloud will break to allow warm sunny spells Wind light, westerly. Max 19C (66F). □ Chennel Islands, SW England, SWales, NWales, NW England, Swales, NWales, NWale

□ Central N, NE England: warm sunny spells this morning but cloudy this afternoon. Wind light, westerly. Max 19C (66F).
□ Bonders, Edinburgh & Dundee: mainly cloudy with rain at times. Wind moderate,

☐ Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Ork-ney, Shetland: rather full with outbreaks of rain, becoming brighter. Wind moderate to fresh, westerly. Max 15C (59F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: mainly cloudy day with rain at times, hea west. Wind moderate, southwes 16C (61F).

☐ N Ireland: cloudy with rain. Wind moderate, southwesterly. Max 15C (59F).
☐ Republic of Ireland: patchy drizzle, hill fog in West, mainly dry and bright in East. Wind moderate, southwest. Max 17C (63F). Outlook Remaining warm in southern parts, but rain in Scotland spreading into

AROUND PRITAIN YESTERDAY

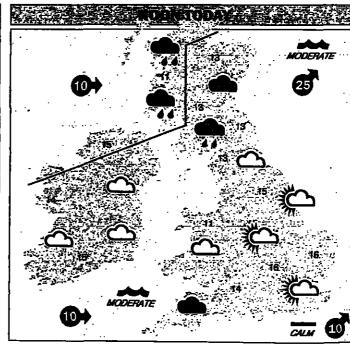
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0 14 Highest day temp: Aberdeen. 20C (68F); lowest day max: Lawick. Shetland 9C (48F), highest rainfalt: St Bees Head, Cumbria, and Lowestoft, Sulfolk, 0.17in. highest sunshine: Folkestone

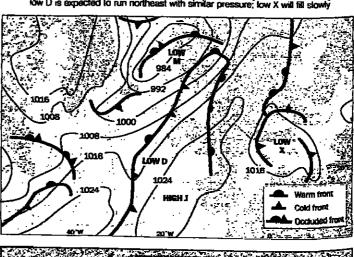
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nges to chart below from noon; high J will merge with ridge to its west and intensity. M will fill at expense of new low forming over north Norway before transfering east low D is expected to run northeast with similar pressure; low X will fill slowly



HERTIDES PM 16:A1 19:05 15:04 17:28 29:57 22:57 6:39 11:48 4:18 11:34 10:45 5:12 10:16 5:14 4:37 3:24 11:16 10:54 PM 19:34 17:05 2.8 23:15 16:29 18:15 4.4 5.2 3.2 4.2 2.6 3.1 4.2 22:31 23:29 17:12 16:39 16:51 22:46 17:37 16:59 16:09 9:44 11:18 4:09 3:52 4:02 2.7 3.2 4.4 7.0 6.7 4.8 4.3 23:39 6.6 11:40 9:12 4:36 11:21 7:57

20:38 4.2

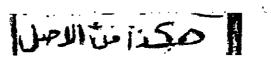


RNU RESCUE UPDATE APRIL 1986 Total number of lives saved so far this year: Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: Cost to RNLI per day:

361 £222,000 £0 0800 543210



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 9 1999

HEWATIMES

Euroland's bold half-point cut catches out financial markets

Bank and ECB reduce rates

EUROPEAN markets yesterday received a double boost as both the European Central Rank and the Bank of England decided to cut their re-

spective interest rates.
While the Bank of England's decision to reduce base rates by a further quarter point to 5.25 per cent had been widely expected, the ECB's half-point cut took the markets

It was the first time that the ECB has used its powers to alter rates, reducing its key refinancing rate from 3 per cent to 25 per cent. The Swiss

i s

National Bank also decided to remain in step with the ECB, cutting its discount rate from 1 to 0.5 per cent, its lowest ever.

Although the ECB has been under heavy political pressure to trim rates almost since the single currency was launched on January 1, the ECB had until recently seemed set against

any reduction in rates. Wim Duisenberg, President of the ECB, yesterday insisted that the decision to cut rates did not represent a change in policy and had won the backing of a "large majority" on the ECB's 17-strong governing

council. "The decision taken today keeps monetary policy on a longer-term stability-oriented course and, by doing so, contributes to creating an economic environment in which the considerable growth potential of the euro area could be exploited," Mr Duisenberg said

shortly after the decision. However, he added that the ECB had chosen to make a larger than expected cut in rates because it wanted to end market expectations of a further cut. "I would like to be sure that is it," he said, rejecting claims that the Bank had refrained from

because of concerns about the value of the euro, which has depreciated by as much as 10 per cent against the dollar during its brief lifespan.

"We are not at all dissatisfied with the level of the euro," Mr Duisenberg said.
The half-point cut came too

late to boost equity markets but sent the euro higher on foreign exchanges at once. It jumped to \$1.088 at one stage but failed to hold its highs, quickly slipping back towards \$1.078, only mar-

rate cut could improve the euro's short-term outlook as it would boost confidence in the European economy.

The pound also made strong gains against the dollar with traders concluding that the MPC's sixth reduction in seven months had greatly en-hanced the chances of a soft landing for the economy.

The pound climbed a cent and a half against the dollar to close at \$1.6108 while the euro fell from 67.66p to 67.25p.

The stock market, however, ginally above the day's lows.

Traders, however, said that the the cut with shares falling vicrecord-breaking run earlier this week. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed down 35.3 at 6,437.9.

Analysts are increasingly convinced that the Bank is close to the bottom of the rate-cutting cyde with the consensus that the MPC will reduce rates by only a further quarter point this year. The fact that the Bank did not publish an explanatory statement with its rate decision was seized on as evidence that the decision was close run with perhaps only a bare majority of the MPC in favour of a further cut.

decision only a lukewarm welpound still highly valued it would do little to relieve the pressure on exporters.

> Savers first, page Anatole Kaletsky, page 22 Letters, page 23

LINKS

L'Oreal springs sales surprise

By Carl Mortished

L'OREAL, the French cosmetics and pharmaceuticals firm, stunned the market yesterday by revealing a near-10 per cent rise in sales in the first quarter. The company, which owns

the Lancôme, Laboratoires Garnier and Maybelline brands, increased sales in local currencies by 14.6 per cent. After currency losses, revenues were up 9.5 per cent to Fr17.1 billion (£1.76 billion).

Evidence that L'Oréal is continuing to gain market share sent the company's stock soaring 4.5 per cent on the Paris bourse and renewed speculation that it might take on Revlon, its struggling rival.

Revion has hired Goldman Sachs and Lazard Frères to advise on disposals after a slide in earnings caused a share price collapse last year. Howyesterday about a L'Oréal takeover, pointing out that the French company is already strong in make-up, Revion's core business.

L'Oréal's first-quarter boost followed a big rise last year when cosmetics surged 10.6 per cent, including a 20 per cent rise in the UK.

Commentary, page 29



FTSE set for new high



Simon Jordan

The PocketPhone chief with the turbo-charged manner

LONDON MONEY

STERLING

Tokyo clase Yen 120.77

NORTH SEA OIL Brent15-day/Jun)_ \$14.50 (\$14.35) \$280.15 (\$280.05)

Sainsbury's to shed 300 jobs from Savacentre By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

nounce up to 300 redundancies after deciding to close the headquarters of Savacentre. It will be the first significant job cuts at the group, Britain's second-largest supermarket operator, for five years.

Staff at the Savacentre head office in Wokingham have been told that they will hear the results of an 18-month long review of the business on Monday. Sainsbury's refused to comment last night on its

plans for the business. The move comes as Sains-bury's along with Britain's other supermarkets, found itself in the firing line as John Bridge-man, Director-General of Fair Trading, formally announced that he was referring the sector to the Competition Commission for a full investigation.

Sainsbury's, which admitted after Christmas that trading had fallen away and that its

Cellnet changes name

By CHRIS AYRES

CELLNET, the mobile phone operator, yesterday changed its name to BT Cellnet in a move which height-ened speculation that BT is close to finally launching a multibillion-pound offer for the 40 per cent of the business it does not already own.

BT yesterday insisted. however, that the move was purely a marketing exercise. to take advantage of the growing demand for "integrated" mobile and fixedline telephone services. It re-fused to say how much the initiative will cost.

The rebranding follows several moves to bring BT and Celinet closer together. It has long been speculated that BT wants to buy the 40 per cent stake in Cellnet currently held by Securicor, with analysis valuing the stake at between £2.5 billion and £4 billion.

J SAINSBURY is set to an- John Cleese-led advertising campaign had gone wrong, has been trialling a new look for Savacentre at its Calcott store. The 13 stores in the chain which was intended to be the group's version of a continental hypermarket - have far lower margins and sales per square foot than the Sainsbury's supermarkets. The trial look has more food and less clothing and other non-food goods.

The Savacentres will be run from Sainsbury's main head office in Central London. About 80 jobs will have to be created to do the work.

One analyst said that the cost-cutting would be wel-comed by the market: "Savacentre has not performed up to expectations. Net margins compared to similar-sized Tesco and Asda stores are not good." The last round of job cuts at

Sainsbury's came in March 1994 when 650 head and area office posts were axed. The inquiry by the Competiplacement to the Monopolies

and Mergers Commission will mean that Sainsbury's and Britain's other supermarkets will be under the microscope for the next 12 months. Mr Bridgeman said he was

concerned about barriers to en-tering the market, the impact of rising land costs; price competi-tion; and the nature of the relationship between the supermarkets and their suppliers. He also defended the tech-

niques used by his officials in their eight-month inquiry. Dino Adriano, chief executive of Sainsbury's, attacked the re-search last week as "inadequate and inconclusive".

Mr Bridgeman said: "So-phisticated economic modelling is required to take into account the firms' levels of investment and risk. We have used a number of measures and have not exclusively relied upon any one indicator of profitability."

Mr Bridgeman stopped short of saying that the supermarkets were making excess profits. He said: "I have to conclude that there is a level of profitability here which requires further investigation by the Competition Commission."

Profits inquiry, page 14 | down on the December figure.



Lindsay Owen-Jones, L'Oréal's chairman and chief executive, saw the company's shares soar on the Paris bourse

Shell cuts exploration budget by up to \$1bn

SHELL is tightening its belt with a cut of up to \$1 billion (about £600 million) in its upstream exploration budget. The oil company yesterday told analysts and fund managers in New York that oil pro-duction was flat in the first quarter of the year but the company promised to meet its growth targets for the full year. Shell has drastically cut investment in oil exploration and production, reflecting the tough environment and low

oil prices. The company announced a capital budget for 1999 of \$11 billion in December, of which \$6 billion was earmarked for the upstream business. However, Shell indicated that it might rein in the budget by \$1.75 billion if oil prices remained weak. Yesterday, Phil Watts, group managing director, confirmed that capital investment would be

Mr Watts said that Shell should achieve cost savings of \$300 million in the current year, part of a \$1.1 billion target of cost-savings for exploration and production to be

achieved by 2001.

The oil company is investing \$900 million developing the Brutus field in the Gulf of Mexico with the construction of a tension leg plat-form, expected to lift 100,000 barrels per day from the 200 million barrel field.

Shell anounced \$4.5 billion in asset writedowns in December and declared its intention to sell 40 per cent of its chemical portfolio, including a half share in Montell, the polypro-pylene business. The write-downs included \$2 billion in oil-producing assets in California, Texas and Venezuela.

Yesterday, the company said it would sell stakes in certain deep water oil projects to share risk as well as a share in its prestigious Malampaya gas to power project in the Philippines. In addition a strategic partner is being sought for Shell's

Venezuelan business.
Shell's annual report for 1998 reveals that Mark Moody-Stuart, the chairman. was paid just over £1 million last year, including £370,000 in realised gains from share options. His total package fell from £1.4 million in 1997.

Both Mr Moody-Stuart and Mr Watts received no bo-

nus in 1998, a year in which Shell's net profits collapsed from \$7.8 billion to just \$400 million. Mr Moody-Stuart's base salary rose by 30 per cent in 1998 to £638,000 but a Shell spokesman said that the apparent increase in 1998 reflected his appointment as chairman half way through the 1997 financial year.

PocketPhone in talks with Palace

By Chris Ayres

THE financial woes of Crystal Palace Football Club, which istration with debts of £23 million, could soon be eased by one of Britain's largest mobile phone retailers. The Pocket-

Phone Shop.
The company, headed by Simon Jordan, is negotiating a shirt sponsorship deal worth £750,000. Mr Jordan is also planning to buy up to a 25 per cent stake in the club, having offered to buy 5 per cent earlier this year for El million. He said: "That same kind of money will now buy me a much bigger stake. My aim is to wait until it

comes out of administration." Mr Jordan, 31, is also considering buying the 50 per cent stake in The PocketPhone Shop owned by his partner, Andrew Briggs, for an estimated £30 million.

Profile, page 31

Web hoax lifts PairGain | Gucci rejects new offer

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

had a dream deal when a fastmoving Internet company was said to be on the end of a takeover bid. Shares of PairGain Technologies, a maker of high-speed Internet equipment, rocketed 35 per cent as

dealers filled their boots. The only problem was that the whole thing was an elaborate hoax. The share-buying frenzy was sparked by a report, purportedly from the cial officer, Charles McBrayer, Bloomberg financial news said the fake was masterful:

WALL STREET thought it service, saying that PairGain would be taken over for

\$1.35 billion (£830 million). The supposed report was drawn to the attention of Internet users at a website that discusses hot stocks, with the message: "Just found it on Bloomberg." The page looked and worked exactly like the Bloomberg internet service. The fraud was revealed by

PairGain, whose chief finan-

it was a Bloomberg website."

The hoax is the latest in a line of cyber-swindles foxing Internet investors. Mr Mcperson responsible on this-occasion profited handsomely from the deception. "If you're going to go to this much trouble. you might as well make money on it." he said. Despite the dismissal of the

were up 10 per cent at the close.

Brayer said he assumed the

"You'd swear on your mother

goods group, saying it came with "unacceptable" conditions. But it added that it was "willing to continue discussions with LVMH to consider an offer that is in the best interests of the company, its share-bolders and all stakeholders". LVMH said in response that story as a hoax PairGain shares no further talks were planned

before the court hearing on

By Sarah Cunningham

April 22 in the battle for con-GUCCI, the Italian fashion house, yesterday rejected an introl of Gucci. LVMH had said it was precreased takeover offer from LVMH, the French luxury

pared to increase its \$81 (£50.60) per share takeover offer for Gucci to \$85, but only if Gucci issued new shares. The proposed share issue would dilute other large shareholdings and enable LVMH to control the company by buying just half of the 34 per cent of

the shares in public hands. Gucci tried to preserve its independence from LVMH, after

it built up a 35 per cent stake in January, by issuing new shares to dilute LVMH's holding. It then sold 40 per cent of the enlarged share base to French retail group PPR. This made it virtually impossible for LVMH to make a successful takeover bid unless PPR agreed. LVMH said an alternative offer of \$91 a share, which required the PPR sale to be annulled, had also been rejected.

Commentary, page 29

GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World a new, smooth, dry full-bodied red.

Stationery Office in demerger moves

By Robert Lea

THE STATIONERY OFFICE (TSO). the privatised former HMSO, has demerged into four operational companies as a precursor to separate flotations or self-offs which will net big profits for its chairman, Rupert Pennant-Rea, and Electra Fleming, the City financiers.

The business — best known as the publisher of government documents. The Highway Code and as the printer of passports - yesterday reported a ment, newly named Tactica; and secu-

45 per cent rise in operating profits last year to £18 million, demonstrating a dramatic turnaround in fortunes. HMSO was privatised twoand-a-half years ago after accumulating losses of £50 million. Electra Fleming paid £54 million and raised anoth-

er £71 million to fund investment. TSO said it had completed a restructuring which gives operating independence to its four businesses: government publishing; Banner office supplies: document managerity printing. Ownership of the companies remains unchanged.

A spokesperson for TSO said it is looking at all future options, including separate flotations or selling the divisions to trade buyers. The business as a whole could com-

mand a price tag of about £200 mil-lion. At the time of the flotation Mr Pennant-Rea, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England who resigned after a tabloid kiss-and-tell scandal four years ago, and three senior colleagues including the group

chief executive, Bob Thian, are thought to have paid about £500,000 for a 10 per cent stake. Existing managers and employees received a further 10 per cent holding.

The group executive team will now break up, with Mr Thian, a former chief executive of North West Water. remaining only as a non-executive director of Tactica, the largest of the four businesses. Mr Pennant-Rea. however, will stay as chairman of each of the four companies.

TSO said that after interest charg-

es and a £2.5 million charge for the demerger, group pre-tax profits for 1998 came in at £10.3 million on turnover slightly down at £261 million. It made dividend payments to its shareholders of £4.9 million (£3.6 million).

The privatisation of the HMSO was dogged by controversy, with original government plans to sell the operations for about £100 million falling apart when due diligence investigations reyealed black holes in the balance sheet. The National Audit Office later ruled that HMSO had been sold too cheaply.

three for trading

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

rules

Authority yesterday imposed fines and costs exceeding £58,000 on three individuals for serious breaches of City

trading rules.
Baljeet Janjuah, the former co-head of Swiss Bank Corporation's global asset swap nese medium-term note.

sell the security.

After it was found difficult to

price if markets fell.

Although this did nothing to cut SBC's risk exposure, Mr Janjuah confirmed the offer by

In a second case, the SFA severely reprimanded Leslie Terrence Commons, a former inter-dealer broker with Cantor Fitzgerald International, and fined him £10,000, plus £5.000 costs, for trying to conceal \$123,000 (£77,000) of losses incurred by Cantors in trades he did in Italian government

SFA fines breaching

THE Securities and Futures

group, was fined £30,000 and was ordered to pay £9,280 costs after forging a letter in order to complete a trade in a Y4 billion (£20 million) Japa-

After receiving an internal directive to reduce SBC's posi-tions in October 1997, Mr Janjuah asked Riad Meliti, a junior member of the investment bank's Middle East desk, to

sell, Mr Janjuah agreed to make the security more attractive by attaching a "put" op-tion, which would have enabled a buyer to sell the note back to SBC at the original

signing an unauthorised letter on SBC headed paper. SBC subsequently discovered and withdrew the deal. Mr Meliti has been reprimanded, fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £2,320 costs by the SFA.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Australians block Coke acquisition

COCA-COLA, the soft drinks group, yesterday suffered a set-back in its acquisition of rival Cadbury Schweppes's brands outside the US, when the Australian competition authority blocked the deal. The US\$1.85 billion (£1.1 billion) purchase announced in December, involves Schweppes beverage brands in 120 countries outside the US. France and South Africa. Competition watchdogs in each of those countries must clear the deal.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said that the acquisition was likely to breach its merger laws and "would be likely to eliminate any real prospect of effective future competition" in the Australian soft drinks market, It said the deal would take Coca-Cola's share of the country's market from 65 per cent to 75 per cent. Analysts said Coca-Cola is likely to offer to sell some of its non-international brands in Australia to get round the regulator. City Diary, page 31

Electra under fire

ELECTRA INVESTMENT TRUST has come under further fire from 3i Group, the venture capitalist which is making a £1.25 billion hostile takeover bid for the company. 3i said yesterday that Electra shareholders should question price comparisons their company has made between 3i's offer and Electra's share buyback. 3i said that, had Electra used 3i's closing price when it made its announcement on Wednesday, it would have valued 3i's offer at 742p, not 72Sp as Electra stated.

ICI company in MBO

ICI yesterday took a small step in its disposal programme by selling a chemicals trading business to its management Chance & Hunt, based at Runcorn, buys in chemicals from more than 100 producers and sells them to businesses. It mainly serves UK companies and those located in the UK. The business last year had sales of \$40 million and employed 46 people. The management buyout team plans to keep all the employees. ICI is trying to sell all its industrial chemicals operations and to turn itself into a consumer-oriented group.

Laird counter-attack

LAIRD GROUP yesterday moved to counter a sharp drop in last year's profits with news that it had rallied in the first three months of this year. The engineer saw pre-tax profits before exceptionals plunge last year to £40.3 million from £69.6 million as it suffered problems in its car body sealing division. With one-off charges for restructuring and the sale of businesses, Laird's profits fell further to £23.7 million. Earnings per share fell from 36.2p to 9.3p. The dividend was increased to 15p from 14.3p. Tempus, page 30

Job losses at Saga

SAGA PETROLEUM is laying off 40 staff in the UK as the Norwegian oil company launches a worldwide retrenchment in an attempt to save Kr400 million (£33 million) a year, a reduction in overhead of 20 per cent. The company, which has a one-fifth share in the Britannia field in the North Sea, is cutting 430 jobs worldwide and yesterday said that it would pull out of Angola, where it has an interest in Block I. A spokes-man said that further exploration had become too expensive.

Bell issues pathfinder

BELL GROUP, a provider of closed-circuit television surveillance, intruder detection, access control and fire alarm systems for banks, yesterday issued its pathfinder prospectus for a full listing on the London Stock Exchange. The group, whose chief executive is Patrick Curran, a former executive with Thorn Security Group, is looking to raise £8 million from the sale of 30 per cent of the company. Last year it had operating profits of £3.8 million on turnover of £34 million.

ONdigital claims lead in battle for subscribers By RAYMOND SNODDY. MEDIA EDITOR ONDIGITAL, the digital ter-

yesterday that it had chalked up 110,000 subscribers since its autumn launch and announced that it was planning to boost numbers by "premiering" top ITV programmes be-fore they are shown on the ITV

ONdigital is a 50-50 venture by Carlton Communications and Granada, the two largest ITV companies. United News & Media, the third-largest, is also involved in digital terres-

The news of programme specials and the better than expected subscription figures, plus the launch in June of a £500 ONdigital integrated television set came as a boost for Granada and Carlton. In a falling market Granada shares rose 44p to £13.50, while Carlton was up 2014p at 63414p.

Stephen Grabiner, chief executive of ONdigital, claimed that the 110,000 subscription figure meant that "like for like we have signed up more new subscribers to digital TV than

In its first four months on air BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake. signed up 350,000 households to the SkyDigital service. Of that. 120,000 were new to multi-channel television.

for-like" lead because it is available in about only 70 per cent of the country.

SkyDigital has set a target of one million digital subscrib-ers by October, the end of its first year. ONdigital declined to set a target other than to say that it was meeting its business plan.

ONdigital said that it would break even when it has two million subscribers and that three million subscribers would produce an operating profit of £100 million a year; five million subscribers would bring profits of £250 million.

Pre-launch costs were £57 million, less than the £80 million expected, but marketing expenditure rose from £40 million to £90 million. Of its plans with ITV

ONdigital revealed that it will be showing the final series of the long-running Inspector Morse before it appears on ITV, while Prime Suspect specials and a final series of Gladiators will be broadcast before their appearance on ITV.

A continuing series of such specials is expected although agreement with ITV will be on a one-off basis. Alba, which plans to manu-

facture 100,000 of the ONdigital integrated Bush TV sets this year, saw it shares rise 34p to

retail demand for cabinet furniture left profits (£229 million). The final dividend of 8.3p (8.2p) Life insurers face £14bn bill

ary were "totally inadequate". Pre-tax profit was

£16.3 million (£16.5 million) for the year ended

January 30, 1999, on turnover of £236 million

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BRITISH life insurers could be hit with a £14 billion bill to cover the cost of guaranteed annuity options given to policy-holders since the 1970s, Standard & Poor's says.

SILENTNIGHT HOLDINGS, the UK's big-

gest bed and cabinet furniture maker, whose

chief executive is Bill Simpson, above, said poor

The credit rating agency said this figure, which is already £3 billion higher than estimated, could reach £28 billion if long-term interest rates

continue to slide. This would dwarf the provisions of £14 billion to £18 billion that life insurers are making

Buys 2.67 21.45 63.13 2.534 0.9037 11.68 5.69 9.39 10.22 3.069 508 13.31 17708 1.2247 6.86 3.053

against the pensions mis-selling scandal and would sharply reduce the industry's total sur-plus, put at £78 billion in 1997.

Insurers have only recently woken up to the scale of the problem they face with guaranteed annuities, which allow their policyholders to take a retirement income of about II per cent on their savings compared with the 8 per cent offered by the best conventional

annuities today. In an unusually grave report, Standard & Poor's gave warning that life insurers' statutory solvency for 1998 would be "significantly" affected.

Technical reserves in some cases would have to be doubled, the agency said, while some insurers would see their financial strength ratings

Although shareholders were likely to be shielded from the impact, millions of policyholders would suffer lower bonus rates and smaller returns as

companies sought to cope with the extra financial burden. The growing pressure would also accelerate the pace of takeovers of small and mediumsized mutual insurers, the report said. Last year NPI fell to AMP, the Australian insurer, after being fatally weakened by its exposure to guaranteed

Of the 16 large insurers surveyed by Standard & Poor's. only Equitable Life has so far been explicitly affected.

NatWest Business Deposit Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 9 April 1999:

	Solicitors' Reserve Accour			
Old Gross Red per dehrum (X		Bolence	New Gross Rate per cursum [N]	New AER (SQ
		Instant access – interest poid quarterly		
3.70	3.75	£250,000 +	3.45	3.49
3.60	3.65	£100,000 - £249,999	3.35	3.39
3.25	3.29	£25,000 - £99,999	3.00	3.03
2.75	2.78	£2,000 - £24,999	2.50	2.52
2.25	2.27	£500 - £1,999	2.00	2.02
1.50	1.51	£0 - £499	1.25	1.26

Where appropriate, tax will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid. The Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) is a notional rate which shows the gross interest rate as if paid and compounded on an annual basis.

NatWest

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Barclays Base Rate Change

Barclays Bank PLC

announces that with effect from

8th April 1999,

its Base Rate has reduced

from 5.50% to 5.25%

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FirstGroup gets GAG

By Paul Armstrong

FIRSTGROUP, the bus and train operator, has paid £10.6 million for GAG, which runs 400 buses in the South West. GAG, which reported an an-

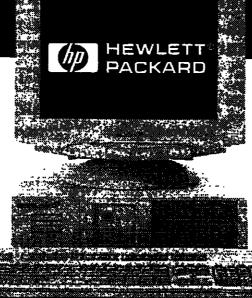
nual operating profit of £506.000, is not expected to contribute to FirstGroup's earnings until 2000. FirstGroup will satisfy the purchase with £2.7 mil-lion cash. £5.2 million in loan notes and by issuing 657,734 shares. It will also inherit GAG's net debt of £2.9 million. FirstGroup said GAG's fleet had an average age of 11 to 12 years compared with eight years for FirstGroup's buses. However, it said it was too ear-

ly to estimate the cost of the up-

grade of the GAG fleet. Tempus, page 30



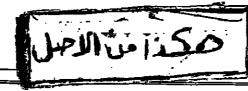
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C o the European Central Bank does maintain a grasp of economic reality after all For three months, the ECB has seemed to delight in informing the suffering inhabitants - not to say struggling politicians - of the core European countries that there was nothing wrong with the euroland economy. It was a display of monetary virility that not even Oskar Lafontaine, the former German Finance Minister, could challenge.

No sooner is Herr Lafontaine ushered into the political wilderness than the ECB proves that it can not only cut rates, but actually wrong foot the market in its generosity. Wim Duisenberg, President of the ECB, insisted yesterday that the half-point cut had been chosen to signal that there would be no further rate reductions. Perhaps, but it also provides the booster that an economy that is desperately short of confidence badly needed. With an almost total absence of inflationary pressures in the eurozone, a half-point cut is no more of a gamble than the expected quarter point would have been. The half pointer is a tactic that

the Bank of England has also learnt to employ. The three half-point cuts that the Bank has instituted in the past seven months have spurred the rapid turnround seen in the service and retail sectors of the economy faster than six quarter points could have done. A half-point cut

MPC winning on points

makes a noticeable difference and consumers, in particular, have responded extremely positively to the sharp decline in mortgage rates. Confidence has returned to levels not seen since the first half of last year. Dangerous concepts such as "housing boom" are even beginning to creep back

into the economic vocabulary. The Bank's decision yesterday to return to only inching rates lower may well have been influenced by this sharp rise in con-sumer confidence. The Bank's departure from normal practice in not publishing an explanatory note to enlighten us on the reasons for its rate reduction certainly suggests that the Monetary Policy Committee vote was a close-run thing and rates are

now clearly near their trough.

And it may be that, with its meagre cut, the Bank will have succeeded in easing the lot of industry a little without risking sending consumers on an inflationary spree. For the first time since the Bank's rate-cutting spree began in the autumn. lenders resisted the temptation to automatically pass on the gains to homeowners. The fi-nancial services companies are increasingly aware of the predic-



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

ament of savers who have seen their rates dwindle to often subinflation levels. A half-point cut would have probably forced lenders to offer at least a partial reduction in mortgage loan rates, but yesterday's quarter-point reduction has allowed them for the moment to leave

rates unchanged. Fine-tuning is a notoriously difficult business, but the MPC might just have managed it.

OFT bites hand that feeds UK

ohn Bridgeman could not have offered a clearer invitation to foreign grocers than he did yesterday. He might as well have stood on the White Cliffs, blaring through a megaphone that overseas supermarket operators would be guaranteed a welcome if they would promise to come to Britain and stop Tesco doing so well. Should

one of them be tempted to launch a bid for Asda. Safeway or even Sainsbury, they are now assured that there would be no competition from a national player.

In subjecting the grocery business to a Monopolies Commission inquiry destined to last at least a year, the Director-Gener-al of Fair Trading has effectively put paid to any mergers among the big players. But if a Carre-four or a Walmart should become the proud owner of a British company, it might not exhibit the care and concern for British suppliers that food manufacturers and farmers might hope. Those Welsh lamb producers would be unlikely to find Carrefour a more supportive customer than Safeway.
As the French Government

tries to encourage three banks to come together to form a national champion, which would be the biggest bank in the world, our European partners must puzzle as to why Britain seems so keen

to weaken its own players. Mr Bridgeman says he is concerned that there are "significant barriers to new competitors in highvolume grocery retailing in Britain". Yet in recent years continental discounters have marched into this country and now have more than 850 outlets. Aldi, Netto and Lidl fight at the bottom end of the market, where price,

riding consideration. Mr Bridgeman cites the cost of land and property as a barrier to newcomers but a Carrelour or Walmart has deep pockets. That they have chosen not to battle to open full-scale supermarkets in Britain could just be because they do not see rich pickings to be had from challenging the existing stores. Even the researches of McKinsey found that the Brits were not doing a bad job.

not range or quality, is the over-

But the Government had decided that the supermarket giants were a good target and Mr Bridgeman has obliged. It would

be a dangerous course if the OFT and the MMC were to become agents of Government, but one cannot help but feel that, when the MMC deliberations are con-cluded, the desire will be for some findings that will provide good material for Alastair Campbell's spinning wheel.

Raising the bidding in the fashion stakes

t may not be impossible to win a contested bid when 42 per cent of the shares are held by a single rival but it certainly is not easy. So the ingenious Bernard Arnault has come up with the idea of asking Gucci to move the goal posts in his favour. The amazingly accommodating Dutch company law would sanction such a move but, not surprisingly, Gucci is not inclined to do so."

In the battle of the handbags M Arnault's desire to get hold of Gucci is pushing him to up the price of the luxury brand to truly luxurious levels. But he is not about to put his \$5 billion on the table unless he thinks the deal is his. François Pinault may be insisting that his rapidly acquired 42 per cent does not give him con-

trol of Gucci but it puts him in a pretty powerful position. Having failed with his request for a few extra shares yesterday, M Arnault is now hoping that he can persuade the courts to remove

the obstacle of the Pinault stake. The energetic M Arnault will not be idle in the meantime. He and his team of three banks will soon start canvassing the smaller shareholders in Gucci, asking them whether they would not like the chance to accept his cash instead of risking seeing the shares fall back to the less luxurious levels where they languished before LVMH stepped in.

But since M Arnault seems to want Gucci with all the intensity that fashion freaks pursue Tom Ford's latest creation, the minority holders may prefer to sit tight and hope for more.

Vyner touch

WHEN Tom Vyner was a top di-WHEN Tom Vyner was a top di-rector of J Sainsbury, suppliers would quake as they headed to-wards Stamford Street. He had not swallowed the idea of "part-nership culture"; Mr Vyner be-lieved in the adversarial way of doing business. And perhaps it still works. In a cute move, Lindstill works. In a cute move, Lindsay Owen-Jones snapped up Mr Vyner on his retirement from Sainsbury. The result is that L'Oréal has boosted British sales by a fifth, much of it through the supermarkets. You can bet he got a good price, too.

Swallow moves to sell all its tenanted pubs

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SWALLOW GROUP yesterday confirmed that it has put all 664 of its tenanted pubs up for sale in a move that will raise funds to expand its hotel and managed pub divsions.

The announcement came after the recent collapse of negotiations to sell 350 of Swallow's tenanted pubs and its Vaux and Ward's breweries to a management buyout team for 163 million. Failing the lastminute appearance of a fresh bidder, the breweries will

close on July 2. Analysts believe that once Swallow's exit from brewing and tenanted pubs is complete, the company will become a sitting duck for potennal predators. Last year, it rejected approaches from both

Stakis and Whitbread. Swallow said that it has asked its advisers, BT Alex

sell all its tenanted pubs after receiving expressions of interest for them. It added that it would consider offers for "all or part of the estate, with or without the breweries".

One of the parties to have expressed an interest in all 664 pubs was Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist behind the abortive management buyout. Last week, in a last-ditch attempt to save the deal, it offered £125 million for the entire package, including the two breweries, but Swallow rejected the price as inadequate.

The tenanted estate, described by one rival as "a hugely mixed bag" has a book value of just over £100 million, although Peter Catesby, Swallow's chief executive, believes it could be worth up to £130

There is unlikely to be any Brown and Noble Grossart, to shortage of interest. Both

Mansfield Brewery and Hardys & Hansons, the Nottingham brewer, are thought to be eyeing the Ward's brewery in Sheffield plus 196 pubs that carry the Ward's badge. Among the possible bidders

for larger parts of the estate are Pubmaster, Enterprise Inns and, despite its recent rebuff. Alchemy Partners. Nomura and Punch Taverns are also being mentioned as possible buyers. The disposals would leave

Swallow Group with 37 Swallow Hotels and 175 managed pubs, some of which trade under the Barcentro and Bramwell & Co brands. Mr Catebsy said that the disposals should provide sufficient funds to allow him to make "some really quite serious acquisitions".

However, most observers believe that it is only a matter of time before Swallow attracts the vultures. One analyst said: "I doubt whether anyone will make a move until the hornet's nest of the breweries and tenancies is safely out of the way. But it then becomes a nice clean company with some very

Swallow's shares shed 3p to

Tempus, page 30



Tempus gives warning on potential hostile bid

By CHRIS AYRES

CHRIS INGRAM, chairman of Tempus, yesterday gave warning that any hostile takeover bid for the advertising group from WPP, its arch-rival, would "destroy the value" of the company.

His comments were prompted by WPP's 18 per cent stake in the business, which has provoked City speculation that the marketing services company could make a bid for Tempus. Mr Ingram said: "We're enjoying what we're doing, and we have a long-term track record. Anything that got in the way of that, such as a hostile bid, would destroy the value of the asset that the bidder was trying to get hold of. I know what the key people in

this business want" Tempus yesterday reported a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, 1998, to £13.2 million. on sales of £1.2 billion, up 27 per cent. Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 10.8p. and

Mr Poon said that the latest

move which will cost him HK\$1.38 billion (£111 million).

is designed to ringfence share-

holders in Dickson Concepts

from exposure to the heavy in-

vestment programme he has

planned for his European business, made up mainly of Harvey Nichols and ST Du-

pont, a French luxury goods

operation. Shares in Dickson

Concepts have performed

the company said that on June 4 it would pay a final dividend of 2.37p, making a total for year of 3.1p - an increase of 14

per cent on the previous year. Mr Ingram said: "We anticipate that there will be good development opportunities during the year, both regionally in the US and Asia, and in the new media and marketing research sectors. Overall we are confident of another year of satisfactory progress."

Tempus, page 30

Philip Rainbow, a cheesemaker at the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company, which Queensborough, the troubled leisure group, has sold to Premiercross, a private company, for £1.2 million, some of it deferred, against a £1.59 million book value. It is one of six visitor attractions Queensborough put up for sale in September.

Waterfall to hit back with results

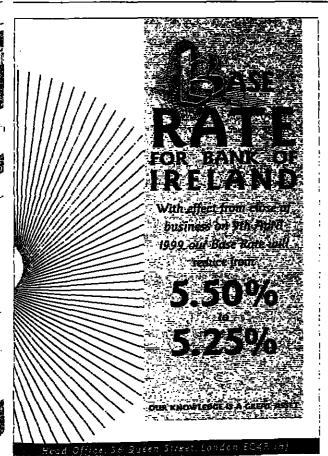
BY DOMINIC WALSH

WATERFALL HOLDINGS which this week launched a hostile £41 million bid for European Leisure, is to bring forward its half-year results in an attempt to defuse doubts over

the value of its all-paper offer. European, which rejected the bid and is pressing ahead with a recommended offer from Allied Leisure, had cast doubts on the profitability of its snooker and pool cue rival. saying that its offer failed to contain a profit forecast or any

comment on current trading. Waterfall said it would accelerate release of the figures, which would show "an entirely satisfactory result for the first half". It also poured scorn on criticism of its accounting prac-tices, claiming: "Waterfall has consistently adopted more conservative accounting policies than European in relation to the depreciation of freehold and long leashold assets."

Waterfall's shares were off מכב מו מיצי vesterday, valuing its offer at 112p a share. European's shares rose just on to 9lp. The bid from Allied. whose shares rose 4p to 244p. is currently worth 89p a share.



Poon boosts Harvey Nichols

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent



SHARES in Harvey Nichols vesterday rose by more than 3 per cent on hopes that complex restructuring plans announced by Dickson Poon, its Hong Kong-based chairman. could lead to him, or an outside bidder, buying the luxury department store group.

Dickson Concepts, the Hong Kong retail and property group owning 50.1 per cent of Harvey Nichols, is to sell all its non-Asian assets into a company owned by Mr Poon. Shares in Harvey Nichols closed 64p up at 195p, their highest since last summer. Mr Poon bought the business in 1991 for £51 million and listed poorly on the Hong Kong stock exchange amid worries it on the London Stock Exabout its Asian businesses. Harvey Nichols, which also change in 1996. At yesterday's price, it is worth £107 million.

runs restaurants, including one at London's Oxo Tower. has stores in London and Leeds. It is to open a third in Edinburgh, and is looking at a fourth in Manchester or Newcastle. It is rumoured to be also considering a store in the City of London.

In restructuring his business empire, Mr Poon proposes to lift his stake in Dickson Concepts from 51.9 per cent to as much as 75 per cent.

Good News For **NatWest** Small Business Customers

Interest rates applicable to **Business Overdraft Agreements**, Business Loan Agreements' and Flexible Business Loan Agreements' are reduced by 1/4% per annum with effect from

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European rate cut set to push FTSE to fresh high

SHARE prices on the London stock market are set to surge to record highs when trading resumes today after the latest spate of interest rate cuts across Europe

Lower returns from the banks mean that investors are likely to turn in ever-increasing numbers to the stock market in order to maximise their

Yesterday's quarter-point cut to 5.25 per cent by the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee had already been factored in by fund managers. But the subsequent reduction in rates by the European Central Bank and a near 100-point rise by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York are likely to provide a further tonic to equities this morning.

Unfortunately, both moves came too late to provide succour to a tired-looking FTSE 100 index, which closed down 35.3 points at 6.437.9. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index rose 15.5 to 5,514.0 in thin mading that saw a meagre 931 million

shares change hands.
Smith & Nephew stood out with a rise of 6thp to 160thp. The company has been talking to institutions this week and the state of play appears to be better than was originally

thought by brokers. The boardroom upheaval at Reed Elsevier, which has re-sulted in the resignation of two directors and the failure to appoint a new chief executive. has not deterred everyone. Collins Stewart, the broker, remains a big fan of Reed after turning a "strong buyer" three weeks ago at 502p. After climbing from a low of 428p in December to a peak of 640p in February, the price is now set for a stable performance in the months ahead. Reed finished 25p higher at 578p.

Great Universal Stores advanced 48p to 713p, excited by comments from various brokers. Warburg Dillon Reed has reiterated its "buy" stance on the shares while Merrill Lynch has been telling clients to "accumulate" and has set a

target price of 750p. Shaking off recent weak-ness, Cadbury Schweppes savoured a rise of 23p to 897!:p. is a "strong buyer" after setting a target price of £10.50. BICC eased 2p to 104p after disposing of its energy cables division. The group is still awaiting firm bid proposals



Ashley Martin, finance director, left, and Chris Ingram. chairman, saw Tempus Group edge Ip higher to 257%p

from Wassall which says it is prepared to pay 110p a share. Some of the market's recent high-flyers came in for profit taking, with ARM Holdings dropping 2021:p to £29.823: and Policy Master 20p to

238 p. ARM has come up from 750p in less than a year. Profit taking also hit the telecom sectors with Energis dropping 60p to £18.22, COLT Telecom 27p to £12.28. Cable & Wireless Communications 15p to 780p and Vodafone 19p to £12.02

Airtours stood out with a jump of 304:p to 492p. Speculators claim that the group is ready to make a counterbid for rival First Choice, down 814p at 17615p, which is planning to merge with the Swiss travel firm Kuoni.



EASYNET GROUP celebrated its move from AIM to a full listing with a rise of 17!:p at 490p.

Internet service providers are all the rage among investors on both sides of the Atlantic these days. Earlier this week, Nasdaq-quoted Yahoo! provided another boost to the anoraks by reporting a trebling of earn-Dixons, up 25p at £14.21, and WH Smith, 72p better at 7821:p. have enjoyed rerating, mainly because of their Internet connections. Another Internet stock attracting buyers yesterday was Geo Intermedia, up

Merrill Lynch, the broker, follows events on the Internet and has begun watching the fortunes of Easynet and AIM-listed ITG Group, steady at ommendations and are trading at hefty discounts to many of their US rivals. They should strong revenue growth.

A sharp jump of 314p to 149p in the Servomex share price has prompted the company to reveal that it has received a bid approach. Bid hopes also drove Chesterton op higher, or 35 per cent, to 23p. Speculators are talking of a bid pitched at about the 30p level for the prop-

erty services group. News of further stakebuilding lifted Focus Dynamics 2½p to 25½p. Clement Wheatley has spent £120,000 buying 500,000 shares at 24p in the loss-making engineer. It stretches his holding to 4.2 mil-

lion shares, or 25.6 per cent.
Share buying of Burn Stewart Distillers by three directors added 214p to the price at 15p. William Thornton has bought 25,000 at 121/2p lifting his holding to 5.62 million. William Walker has bought 25,000 at 12p and now holds 1.48 million and Ian Bankier has bought 10,000 at 12p stretching his

holding to 115,000. Regent lans firmed 45p to 175p after Peter Savage, a director, picked up 10.000 shares at 177p. Regent recently broke off merger talks with SFI Group. 11/2 p dearer at 190p. There has been persistent talk that one of the big brewers may pitch for Regent.

Tempus Group edged Ip higher to 257/ip after the media company weighed in with a 40 per cent increase in full-year profits to £13.2 million. This was far better than most brokers had been expecting and the media specialist said that it had "significantly" increased market share.

☐ GILT-EDGED: News of the quarter-point rate cut by the MPC provided an initial boost to bond prices. But the absence of any statement ac-companying the move un-nerved investors. Shorterdated issues soon went into reverse and closed down on the day while the ultra-long end was barely moved.

In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt finished 12p down at £117.87 as 25,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 firmed 3p to £148.25, but Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished 21p down at £106.53. ☐ NEW YORK: U

were little changed in early trading as investors took a breather after recent record-Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.78 points to 10,088.09.

HADON HENOLO
New York (midday): Dow Jooss
Tokyo: NSKR: Amerage
Hoog Kong: Hang Sang
Amsterdam: AEX hos:
Sydney: AD
Frankfurt: OAX 5068 75 (+ 16 48)
Singapore: Saals
Brussels: 88.20 3321 41 (-12 \$3)

MAND INDICES

London: FTSE Storogo 100 -

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	265':	-
8GI Endowment III	101	+
Br Smaller Co's VCT (100)	95	
Br Smir Cos VCT Wrts	12'2	
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	112	-
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	23	
Canary Wharf	333	-
Edinburgh Inc & Val	10612	
Edinburgh Val Zero Dv Pf	104'z	
Enhanced Zero Trust	990,	-
Gartmore High Income	108	
Gartmore Zero Div Pl	10674	
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	103	+
Govett Enhanced inc	95	+
Luminar Warrants	255	
M Currie Cap Return	751:	
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Sherry FitzGerald

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MFI	3914		+ 13.7
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-	Central Pacific 2754	- 214	- 7,3
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TEMPUS

A lot to Swallow

ANY announcement from Swallow Group these days tends to cause a sharp intake of breath among shareholders. So it must have come as a pleasant relief when the statement that flashed up on stock market screens yesterday morning had nothing to do with collapsed deals, boardroom bust-ups, mass redundancies or directors' sackings.

That said, the confirmation that it has decided to put its entire tenanted pub estate up for sale - following the collapse of a management buyout of half the pubs and its two breweries - has more to it than meets the eye. It needs to be read in the context of persistent speculation that Swallow's days as an inde-

pendent company are numbered. Peter Catesby, the group's straight-talking chief executive, was adamant that it merely brings forward a strategy that has been in

to concentrate all its efforts on its fastergrowth Swallow Hotels and pub concepts such as Barcentro and Bramwell & Co.

But some insiders believe that making the announcement now means that it will not look like a spoiling tactic in the event of a predator pouncing. Moreover, if Mr Catesby can move quickly on the pub disposal, he will soon have an extra £130 million or so to boost his firepower to make acquisitions of his own. He is known to be casting around for pretty significant targets, and any such move could also

help to keep the barbarians at bay.

A bid could easily lift the shares to 350p, perhaps a shade higher. But at 288/p the group currently looks fully priced based on a valuation. ation of its assets, and it will be a while before the Catesby strategy proves itself. Hold.

However, FirstGroup's fire-

power for acquisitions and

FirstGroup

SHAREHOLDERS in First-Group, the bus and train operator, have endured a bumpy ride in the past year, but have not really got anywhere for their efforts. The company's share price has bounced be-tween 350p and 430p, with a spike to 503p in September providing the only change of scenery.

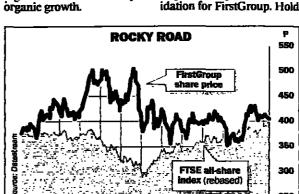
The market's lack of enthusiasm reflects, in part, the perceived shortage of opportunities to grow through acquisition. Future purchases will almost certainly be of a bolt-on nature. FirstGroup's interest cover of just 4½ times means that it would probably be una-ble to avail itself of any substantial acquisitions, even if they existed.

The company's organic growth prospects are brighter. Its experience shows that it can achieve returns of up to 25

per cent on capital invested in equipment and infrastructure, such as bus lanes. The theory states that the faster passengers are transported. the more they will use the bus.

Given that price rises are not viewed as a way of lifting profits in the transport busi ness, and most costs are fixed. higher volumes are the key to

significant capital expenditure is limited. The GAG purchase is expected to be earnings neutral in year one and the stock is already trading on a multiple of 18 times cur-rent year earnings, which is near the sector average. This all points to a period of consolidation for FirstGroup. Hold.



Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

Laird

CLAMBERING from the wreckage of last year's re-sults. Laird Group yesterday dusted itself down and declared it would be fine.

Despite continued losses at its car body seal business, Laird said that remedial action across its divisions meant that overall profits had climbed 20 per cent in the first three months of this year. Is it right to be valiant or is it suffering from shock?

The collapse in profits last year to £23.7 million from £67.1 million was slightly worse than the City had been expecting. But the message of cheer about this year's performance and the increase in dividend to underpin the optimism was encouraging. And from such a low level of profits, improve-

thing goes badly wrong.
Laird still faces difficult times, however. The automotive industry is witnessing fierce price wars. The US divi-

DOLLAR RATES

6.8515-6.8545

sion of Draftex, its car sealing business, is not expected to see profits until later this year. Meanwhile, the whole of Draftex is being rational-ised. Another of its operations - computer components and assembly -- faces similar competitive pressure and its margins are likely to

be stight. At 2321/p, Laird's shares are a hold. But they could see some upside if Laird becomes the subject of some of the takeover speculation that has swept the small engineering

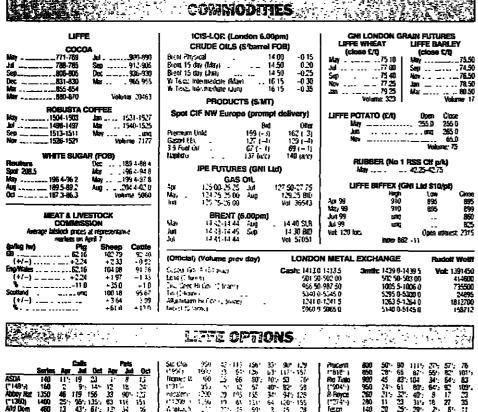
Tempus

IT IS tempting to see Tempus as a sitting duck, with Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, slowly building up a stake in the advertising busiout yesterday, Sorrell is high-ly unlikely to launch a bid for the company, given that its present management (who want to remain independent)

own 40 per cent of its shares. Still, it is reassuring to know that WPP (which owns an 18 per cent stake) could pounce if the company began to flourder. And things do sometimes go wrong with Tempus. The company's UK business, for example, recently lost a handful of accounts and suffered a management

shake-up. Things now appear to be back on track, and Tempus has successfully positioned itself as a cross-media strategist rather than just a buyer of advertising space. It is also investing in the Internet, although the company was a bit vague about these plans

yesterday.
With Tempus's shares at 2571/2p, the company trades on an historic multiple of about 24 times earnings. vestors need further reassurance about Tempus's UK activities and recent move into the cut-throat US market. Hold.



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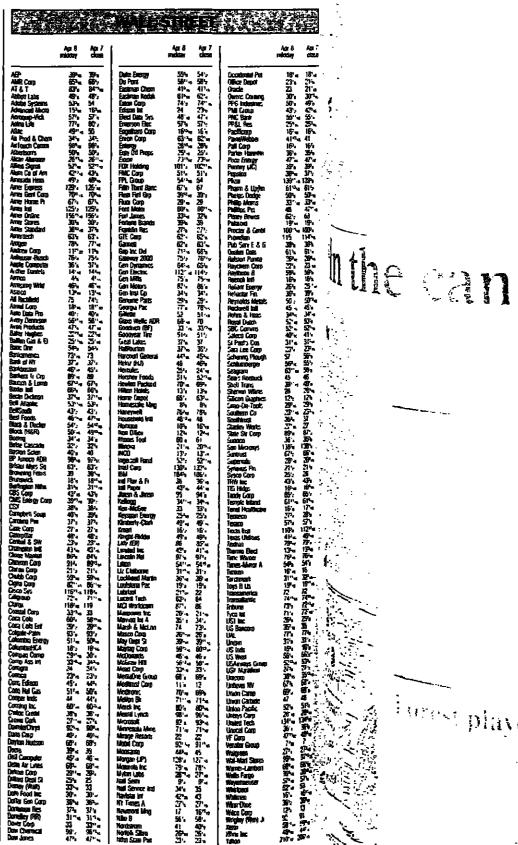
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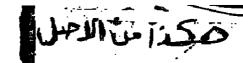
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lurest player

مكذا من الاصل



l here can be few more potent examples of how peace is changing the Middle East than Omah Salah. At 31, he is the chief executive of Century Invest-ment Group, Jordan's largest industrial company. His ten factories make underwear for Marks & Spencer, casual clothes for the Gap and Banana Republic chains and cork caps for Pepsi Cola bottles. However, the big surprise is that almost all of this is either sold to Israel or exported in joint ven-

tures with Israeli companies. The company, which reported a turnover of £62 million last year, has been called "a role model for the future of the Middle East" by Stuart Eizenstat, US Under Secretary of State. Yet Salah founded it just four years ago on a whim.

"I was stuck in a traffic jam in Los Angeles, listening to the news on the radio. Suddenly I realized that this transitional period in the Middle East, from conflict to peace, had fantastic business

Manufacturing progress out of peace potential," says the entrepreneur,

who was educated at Pangbourne College in Berkshire.

Salah left his job and headed back to Amman. Overcoming his own prejudices, he made his way to Israel - which then had no official ties with Jordan - and called the offices of large Israeli companies. Several Israeli chief executives agreed to see the young Jor-

danian out of curiosity.

After the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel in October 1994, Salah's unorthodox methods began to bear fruit. Dov Lautman, managing director of Delta Galil, the Israeli textile giant, agreed to set up a fac-tory in Jordan which Salah would run. Delta has annual sales of £190 million and produces underwear for brand names such as Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren.

Century's joint venture with Delta, in the Irbid industrial estate. 80km from Amman, is now the largest garment manufacturing facility in Jordan. Century's nine other factories in Irbid employ more than 2,000 people.
We do all the recruiting, take

care of the local infrastructure, sort out the logistics," says Salah. Despite high expectations on both sides, the peace treaty between the two countries has not produced many joint ventures. There is no free trade agreement between Jordan and Israel, and only £15 million worth of trade annually between the two countries.

more jobs than any other business in Jordan, where the official unemployment rate is 16 per cent - but which, according to analysts, is ac-Salah says that co-operation tually closer to 25 per cent. "People makes good economic sense and think the joint ventures are exploit-

Salah: good economic sense

claims that Century has created

hundreds of people that we provide jobs for, they say 'we're very happy to be working". There's a lot of hypocrisy about this issue."

In July 1995 Century went public. Large shareholders include the Arab Banking Corporation and the Jordan National Bank. The value of the company's shares on the Jordan stock market has doubled over the past year, and Salah plans to float Century on the London Stock Exchange later this year.

No wonder Salah is so enthusiastic about business potential in the region. "A lot of people will build a television factory and then say 'let's sell to Sony'. I want

ing Jordanians, but if you ask the them build their factories in Jor-

Investors are attracted to Jordan by the low cost of workers -unskilled workers earn £90 a month. Foreign companies are also exempted from paying corporation tax in Jordan.

But the real pull for foreign companies is a new free trade agreement - Irbid was designated the first qualified industrial zone by the US last year, giving it free trade access to US markets. Salah is keen to sign such an agreement vith the European Union.

The irony is, Jordan, Palestine and Israel all have free trade agreements with the EU. But mix them together and they immediately forfeit the right to enter the

Blair, Major, Kohl. They all say, 'yes, we've got to fix this'. Well, fix

tt." says Salah emphatically.
There is a catch. The US stipulates that to qualify for the benefits of qualified industrial zone status, il per cent of the materials used must come from Israel. If raw materials are used from both Jordan and Israel, they must each provide 20 per cent. This clause angered many Jordanians. The Israeunions have also complained, saying that cheap Jordanian wages are taking away their jobs.

Salah, with the fervour of the converted, hopes that more Jordanians and Israelis will come round to his way of thinking.

"I've had a fantastic enlightening experience, where I've found that Israelis and Arabs can really get along. And everyone knows that the fastest way to get to peace is through economic co-opera-

DINA SHILOH

Mobile phone entrepreneur sets out his latest pitch

Chris Ayres traces the rapid

rise of a retail millionaire

whose new goal is a soccer club

f Joe Pesci had been born in Croydon, he might have turned out something like Simon Jordan. The 31-year-old mobile phone tycoon and aspiring football club financier certainly seems to have learnt much of his negotiating tactics from the American actor's mobster movies. In mid-conversation, you almost expect him to vault his desk, grab you by the collar, and whisper: "Do you think I'm a funny guy, buh?"

When The Times meets Jordan, he is standing in the centre of his tennis court-sized office - arms outstretched, upper-lip curled - explaining why he has issued a High Court writ against Ulrika Jonsson. Jordan's relationship with the blonde sex symbol began when he paid her about £650,000 to promote his successful company. The Pocket-Phone Shop, for 18 months.

Their relationship became

strained when Jordan rebuked up late to a shop opening. It's easy to imagine that Jonsson did not appreciate being treated like a gormless 18-year-old shop assistant, but Jordan insists that this was not the rea-

son for their spat. The real cause remains unclear, but Jordan claims that Jonsson has a further £105,000 worth of work to do. Jonsson. unsurprisingly, argues other-'I'm going to get that money," Jordan fumes. "I don't care if I have to pay more than £105.000 in court fees to

get it. I m going to get it." Everything about Jordan tells you that he is man who has made a big pile of cash very quickly indeed. He wears the kind of outfits - Top Man meets Armani - that you could easily imagine a Premiership



Simon Jordan has turned a £30,000 investment into a company worth an estimated £65 million in just four years

end trip to Stringfellows. To complete the image, he smokes the occasional cigar and drives a silver Ferrari 550 to the office. Needless to say, it looks suita-The PocketPhone Shop's headquarters in a concrete business park in Slough.

"I suppose you've got to be careful about the signs you're giving out," Jordan says, referring to the £140,000 car (which he says was a "bonus payment" from The PocketPhone Shop). "But what's wrong with being very successful, and having all the trappings of it?" At least Jordan seems to spread his cash around: his personal assistant has a bright red BMW coupe. and the company's staff car park is jammed with other similarly ostentatious examples from the German car industry.

Yet Jordan's arrogance is partly justified. In just four years he has turned a £30,000 investment into a company worth an estimated £65 million. The son of a Daily Mail footballer buying for his weekprint worker, Jordan went into business after deciding against becoming a professional footballer at the age of 16 (he signed youth forms with both Crystal pleting a degree in Computer Sciences, he went to work in the City for Dun & Bradstreet, the credit information group. At the age of 21 he decided to go it

alone and set up his own mo-

bile phone company. After two years the business collapsed so Jordan moved to New York to start again. He be-came homesick and flew back to London to work for The Carphone Warehouse: an experience that ultimately inspired him to set up his own chain of mobile phone shops, based on the same idea of offering cus-tomers handsets from all four of Britain's mobile phone operators. Jordan says his entrepreneurial ability comes from a passion for sport, and he views business very much as a game that you either win or lose. Yet the PocketPhone Shop

was not entirely Jordan's own creation. In fact, he launched the business in 1994 with the help of Andrew Briggs, a colleague and former estate agent. Slough, with the company's headquarters migrating from a small room behind the counter to the building upstairs, then to a 13,000 sq ft business park around the corner.

¬ he PocketPhone Shop now has more than 120 outlets throughout Britain, employing more than 650 staff, and is currently in talks to buy a chain of 22 shops in Australia. Jordan is also planning to move the head office again. this time to a 41,000 sq ft office block, also in Slough.

Jordan is clearly an inspiring boss, but he also appears to have created a culture of fear within The PocketPhone Shop. He has just spent-£250,000 hiring a team of "mystery shoppers" to assess customer serv-

ice in every outlet, and he admits that some of their reports resulted in "disciplinary proceedings". He is spending a further £250,000 installing twocomputer terminals, so he can look in on staff at any time of day from the comfort of his Slough office. The staff will definitely not like it," he says with relish, giving the impres-sion that the investment is all part of some schoolboy prank.

Like most entrepreneurs, Jordan says he finds it hard to relax outside work. He has even fitted his car and his six-bedroom home in Cookham with an elaborate computer system that tells him exactly how many mobile phones are being sold by The PocketPhone Shop at any moment in time - and exactly which employees in which stores are responsible for the sales. Presumably, the technology will also eventually allow him to watch them.

He says he avoids socialising with other mobile phone in-

dustry big-wigs (he appears to have a particular dislike for Charles Dunstone, founder of The Carphone Warehouse), time with his girlfriend. However, he clearly enjoys throwing parties, and proudly reveals that he recently entertained Mike Reid (aka Frank

Butcher from EastEnders). At the moment Jordan's only sizeable business interest aside from The PocketPhone Shop is Crystal Palace, his beloved football club, which is facing financial collapse. Jordan says he is negotiating a £750,000 threeyear shirt sponsorship deal with the club, and is interested in buying a stake of up to 25 per cent. But he is aware that his involvement with the troubled club, which recently went into administration, could ruin his image in the City, potentially harming a flotation of The PocketPhone Shop. "I'm a big fan of Palace, but I'm not stupid," he says. "I'm not putting

my directorship in jeopardy." Meanwhile, Jordan also has plans to overhaul The Pocket-Phone Shop's share structure. He admits that he is interested in buying Briggs's 50 per cent stake in the company for about £30 million, with the ultimate intention of floating the business within two years. "A business has one leader," Jordan says, without blinking. "I decided some years ago that that would be me. Andrew wants to Jordan insists that the parting of ways is amicable. As if to prove it, he has decorated his office wall with an enormous photograph of himself with his arm around Briggs, taken at one of the company's summer balls. Both men are wearing dinner jackets, clutching champagne glasses and beaming. Jordan, however, looks by far

the happier of the two.

New system sees car sales march ahead

Worried manufacturers perked up by T-reg tonic, says Arthur Leathley

AR manufacturers yesterday declared T to be a success as they celebrated better than expected sales growth last month on the back of the first stage in the

twice-yearly plate change.

March sales soared by more than 70 per cent on last year as customers reacted to heavy discounts on some T-registration

The unexpectedly high sales figures saved the motor industry from a catastrophic first quarter after the huge slump in orders during January and February. The 370,000 new registrations ensured a firstquarter increase of 2 per cent. after sales had slipped by more than a quarter in the opening two months.

Although the new figures brought relief to an industry braced for a fall in sales over the year, there was little cheer for troubled Rover, which again saw its market share dip.

Rover has consistently seen its share slip since the end of last year, and last month's figures showed a drop from 10 per cent to 7 per cent, leaving it well behind market leaders Ford and Vauxhall and also trailing Peugeot once again. British manufacturers suf-

tion as imports continued to grow, especially from Eastern Europe and the Far East. The rise in car sales surprised industry leaders, who

expected September to be by far the strongest month for orders under the new six-monthly plate changes. Some had feared that companies and private buyers

would delay placing orders un-

til after last month's Budget. Although the Budget contained heavier taxes on company cars and fuel, manufacturers do not expect the measures to harm sales.

Senior industry figures admit, however, that they do not know whether September will also show a bigger increase than originally forecast, or whether the March increase will be at the expense of orders at the next plate change.

Despite the overall rise in sales over the first quarter. manufacturers are not altering their overall forecasts of a 9 per cent fall in annual sales. to two million.

Roger King, acting chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The new plates have dearly been a big hit with customers and we are pleased to see that the switch to a twiceyearly system is going so well."

The March boom helped sales for the first three months of the year to total 622,562, a 2.1 per cent increase on the first quarter of

Ford celebrated the arrival of its award-winning Focus as Britain's top-selling car. The Foreplacement for the popular Escort, beat off the challenge of Ford's own Fiesta to too the March 1999 sales charts.

The March 1999 top ten sellers were: 1 Ford Focus. 2 Ford Fiesta, 3 Vauxhall Astra. 4 Vauxhall Corsa, 5 Vauxhall Vectra, 6 Renault Megane, 7 Renault Clio, 8 Volkswagen Golf, 9 Ford Mondeo, 10 Peugeot 206.

In the can

THE mighty Coca-Cola Corporation faces an unaccustomed defeat in Paris today and a court ruling that will end its long attempt to buy Orangina. the French soft drink with the distinctive pear-shaped bottle. Coke first tried to buy the soft drinks business from Pernod Ricard at the end of 1987 for £520 million, but the deal

d'Etat. France's highest court. which will rule today. Everyone expects the Americans to lose and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's Finance Minister - "looking a bit tired these days," says my in-

was stopped by the French Fi-

nance Ministry last autumn af-

ter complaints from Pepsi.

Coke appealed to the Conseil



formant unkindly — to emerge victorious. Coke will have to walk away. This being France, defeats for the Government in the Conseil are as rare as ministers without mistresses.

MOST former Tory Cabinet

ministers are festooned with non-executive directorships by now, but one has only just succumbed to his first. Sir George Young, known for his fondness for bicycling everywhere — "in London only," he adds — and his dislike of smoking, is join-ing the sheltered housebuilder McCarthy & Stone. They approached me direct-

ly," he tells me. "I haven't been looking for any directorships this is the only one, and I only took it on because I've always been interested in housing." He was, after all, Housing Minister for almost four

Forest player

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE Novelli has persuaded his countryman David Ginola, the Spurs footballer, to help to launch his latest acquisition, Gordleton Mill, a country house hotel in the New Forest. This is something of a return to Novelli's roots because he earned his first Michelin star at the hotel's restaurant six years ago.

The French chef, whose six



restaurants now turn over more than £6.5 million a year, is thought to have paid considerably less than the £1.5 million asking price for Gordle-ton. Novelli has also just been named one of the UK's "50 most alluring men", he tells me smugly, adding that Ginola failed to make the list.

On points

GEOFFREY DICKS, economics analyst at Greenwich Nat-West, included a plaintive memo to Mervyn King at the Bank of England in his latest forecast, published before yesterday's base rate cut.

He admitted that, month by month, he has had a bad run of form in predicting the Monetary Policy Committee's deci-

This run predates the loss of form of a certain football team that we both support." he says sadly. The message is

clear: if we wish to salvage something from the rest of the season; I have got to start calling the MPC right." Good news for Aston Villa, the object of both men's affections, because Dicks had tentatively suggested a quarter-point cut before yesterday.

I ring to congratulate him, and get his colleague. John O'Sullivan. "Villa isn't mentioned around here any more," he says with a hint of satisfaction. "Earlier in the season you never heard an end to it, but it's all gone very quiet of late."

OVER at Financial Times Information they have abolished history. From April I the various FTSE constituents were reorganised. As a result, a colleague has just discovered, it is impossible to call up on screen any of their past performances. The FT people are unrepentant. "We always knew that in the month of April there would be no history," one tells me cheerfully. The data will be available at the end of this month." Still. I get the impression they would rather no one had noticed.

Paint it black

DIRECT advertises itself as Europe's leading direct marketing magazine and distributes a stylishly black media pack. Executives are encouraged to staple their business cards, also modishly black, to the front cover before they distribute the packs.

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JAZZ Kyle Eastwood brings his band to London PAGE 35

THE TIMES ARTS

POP The sound of violence from Eminem

PAGE 37



Prim, proper and a bit of a weed

hen Claudius and his courtiers enter the Young Vic for the version of The Mousetrap that Agatha Christie did not write. they are greeted by an odd sight. It is Paul Rhys's Hamlet posed with arms outstretched beside a tree, a brown wig and a crown of thorns on his head. Is he playing mad? Is the director, Laurence Boswell, signalling to us that the play occurs in a Christian context, and that the prince must die to cure rotten Denmark? Or is it. as I felt, an inadvertent indica-tion of the limitations of Rhys. who more than once put me in mind of the gentle Jesus, meck and mild, of Charles Wesley's sentimental hymn.

t is a horribly familiar scenario. A

teenage girl goes missing on holi-day. Nothing is heard for months.

Then a man is caught, a confession is ex-

tracted, a trial begins. The gruesome de-

tails are splashed across the papers; the

family is besieged by intruders and wellwishers. How on earth, we must all

have wondered, do they cope with the waiting, the realisation of their worst

fears, the public gaze, the very existence

In quite different ways, of course, but

Zinnie Harris's bleak little play tries to imagine the effects on one such trauma-

tised family. It opens on the day of the dreaded knock on the door. The missing

girl's younger sibling Gill is huddled in

imaginary conversation with her belov-

ed big sis. She discovers her mother Monica in a furious flurry of uncharac-

teristic domesticity. The truth flies out,

and both tentatively begin to manoeuvre

Harris catches the child's voice con-

vincingly: the young Julia Malewski is

impressively natural and direct as Gill.

The mother-daughter relationship, root-

of the wrecker of their lives?

around each other's pain.

Boswell's four-hour production occurs on and between two small black stages linked by a retractable black causeway. It is a setting that invites fluency and simplicity, and on flanking spectators get. Don't

ask me why the "seafaring men" who deliver Hamlet's missive resemble members of Smersh fresh from hijacking a nuclear sub, or why Rhys orates about destiny while scrubbing his nails and Yor-ick's skull inside a hot sunken bath, or why the players look as if they are auditioning for the tramps in Waiting for Godot, or why at the end Chinese-style model warriors line the causeway. Just try to believe me when I say that, considering it mixes guns and swords, medieval robes and modern trousers, this is not a notably tricksy revival. But is it a particularly good

one? There I cannot be so sure. Rhys is undeniably one of our finest young actors, but he is tackling a part that relentlessly exposes any holes in a performer's range. Where is Hamlet's fire and frenzy? Or the pride, vindictiveness and ambition of which he accuses himself, or the soldier's eye and sword that impress Ophelia.

THEATRE Hamlet Young Vic

or the evidence for Fortinbras's claim that he would have proved most royal, or the scathing humour that some modern actors have found in the character? Nowhere much.

Well, there is no such being as a complete Hamlet. Some may find Rhys's interpretation - a bereft but inadequate son who actually uses his last moments to cradle the mother who has followed his adored father to purgatory — more than adequate. He quivers and throbs with sensitive intelligence and fastidious feeling. But his more robust moments. as when he grapples on the ground with Ophelia, seem forced. There is a hint of primness in his manner as well as of Michael Howard in his vowels. To be blunt, I thought him

As Ophelia, Megan Dodds is too cool, too unfazed by Hamlet's rejection, for her fall-ing apart to be wholly credible; but I suppose she could ar-gue that the death of Robin Soans's punctilious but fond Polonius has helped to motivate her. Meanwhile, Suzanne Bertish does a nice, subtle job of suggesting Gertrude's growing alienation from Donald Sumpter's Claudius, as does Sumpter of showing his alienation from health, happiness and himself. But I suspect the performance that will stick in my mind is one that defiantly contradicts Tom Stoppard's sympathetic view of the attendant lords. Was there ever such an ambitious creep as Leo Wringer's bowing and sometimes prostrate Rosencrantz? Beside him, Malvolio might be a rebellious teenager.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Fiends and relations

> By Many Wounds Hampstead, NW3

ed in nicely observed and sometimes comic detail, also rings true. A suitably harrowed-looking Suzanne Burden, all searching eyes, nibbling teeth and fidgeting fingers, is excellent as Monica. Battling to retain her composure or simply too shocked for anger, she is tautly focused throughout.

But for all this, I remained unmoved. The script - and particularly in the sec-

ond half, set during the trial in France fails to hang together. The problem lies mostly with the character of Monica's partner Mike. Harris never quite knows what to do with him, and neither does Mark Hadfield. He starts off compassionate; by the end, after witnessing the trial, he is hellbent on self-mutilation and almost incoherent with rage. This he directs at Monica, unable to countenance her apparent equilibrium.

You can see where Harris is going: she is trying to suggest that hearing such harrowing things breeds an irra-tional resentment of those who remain less soiled, and heaps heartache on tragedy by destroying one's closest relationships. But the transformation fails to make sense. So, too, with the macabre ending, which abruptly hits quite a false note of catharsis. Elsewhere Harris plausibly suggests that people in extreme circumstances react in quite unexpected ways; here her script tries too hard to invert normality, and ends up seeming merely bizarre.

NIGEL CLIFF



Murder on the magic floor

espite exposure to the crushing banality of by Bernard-Marie Koltes. off with some enthusiasm for this one, since many reports on its British premiere at Stratford praised the quali-ty of his writing, and all admired the mysteriously lightsensitive floor of Jeremy Herbert's set and James Macdonald's cool, precise direction.

Koltes was inspired to write the play, in his last months before dying of an Aids-related illness in 1989, after seeing four photos of a handsome young killer on a wanted poster. They seemed to be pictures of four different men, and this became the germ of his hero's chameleon-like adoption of Roberto Zucco Barbican Pit

knowability at his inmost heart. After killing his father, he escapes from jail, strangles his mother, then stabs an inspector and shoots a teenage boy: he gives the boy's bored mother an experience to remember; he seduces a young girl and, because he is a character in a French play, his speech is either curt or madly rhapsodic. Asked what is on his mind after a fight, he re-plies: "I'm dreaming about the immortality of the crab, the slug, and the dung-beetle."

ers gather and discuss the situation as though it were a play. More typical are the scenes where one character delivers a lengthy speech to another

tent like Gide, Koltès adores

the handsome killer he cre-

ites and appears to want him

to be seen as a man who, un-

burdened by conscience, per-

forms the dreadful deeds the

rest of us dare not to do. To es-

tablish his heroic status Zucco

moves through a society

where almost everyone else is

a hypocrite a sadist or gorg-

ing at the materialistic trough.

In the riveting scene in the park where Zucco takes a

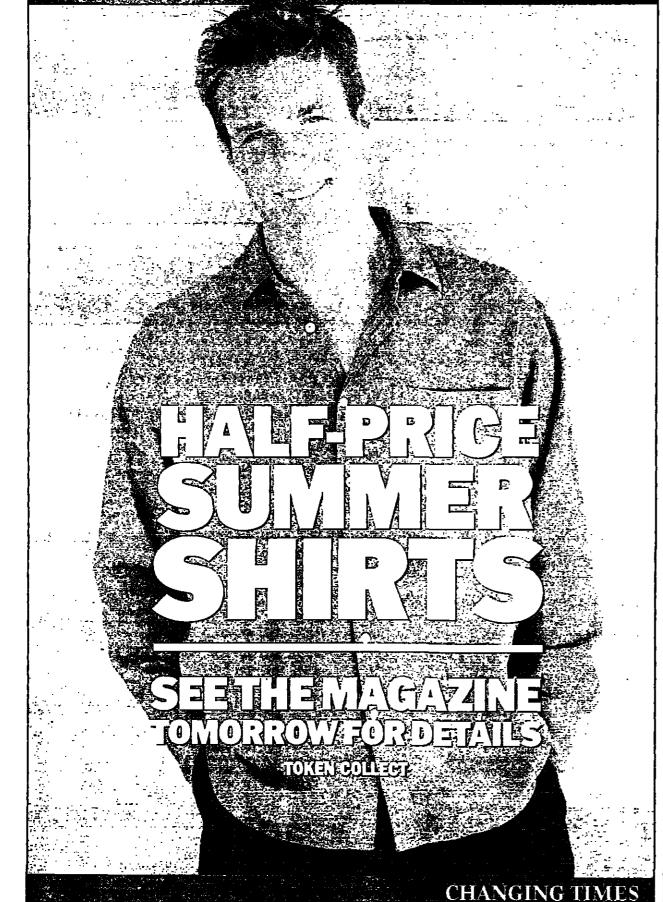
woman hostage and holds a

gun at her son's head, onlook-

Like Genet, and to some exmoving. This certainly contributes to the play's weird artificiality, counterpointing a crisp translation by Martin Crime that caroms from street argot to metaphysics. Zucco, who remains a cipher, is given the requisite alienated air by Zubin Varla, moving through space as if conscious of every floating atom in it.

The acting by three of the omen. Mairead McKinley. Cathryn Bradshaw and Di ana Kent, is particularly vivid. and the floor that retains for a that have fallen upon it is fascinating But the play itself strikes me as disagreeable and dishonest.

JEREMY KINGSTON



The keys to the political asylum

play set on the Serbian border where Nato planes fly overhead on faulted for being out of date. Jeremy Kingston writes. It so happens that the targets lie in Bosnia, but since Balkan history always alternates between despotism and slaughter, it is no surprise to learn that the play is supposed to be set in the year 2000. This year Kosovo, next year Macedonia: death's carousel sometimes whirls faster but never stops

going round. Hristo Boytchev is from Bul-garia, a country currently at peace, and though the war next door impinges on his characters, its battles remain offstage. Most of the play is set in the ruins of a monastery, cut off by snowdrifts and wolves at the far end of a gorge, where half a dozen men-tal patients live a degraded life until a disorientated UN plane deluges them with aid parcels. The Balkans are all the same

The Colonel Bird Gate. W11

shrewdly points out. "They were told to drop aid on the Balkans, so that's what they've

Combat uniforms and sky-blue berets are included in the aid, and these transform the most traumatised patient (Damian Myerscough) into a UN colonel, who in turn transforms the others into a disciplined and purposeful group, though all of them continue to be mad. Eventually the group applies to join Nato as an inde-pendent force, attaching their application to the leg of a migrating bird and scanning the

winter skies for an answer. With Nato seen as an all-providing god, what we have here is plainly an allegory for Eastern Europe's longing to join the banquet. Boytchev is not



Officer material: Damian Myerscough dons UN uniform

concerned to examine the na-ture of madness — the Gate's current season is called *The Id*iots — except insofar as a wish to join the West might be a disturbing symptom. So the disor-ganised mad behaviour at the start is something of a trial to

Once the madness is canalised into Lilliputian ambition. Rupert Goold's direction creates an impressive coherence. The bird-catching scenes are

exciting, with the characters huddling together and leaning back in unison when the flocks pass above them. Adam Cork's fast, jangling music also gives a fine sense of adrenalin pounding through the 555 tem, and though the characters are seldom more than two-dimensional, the performances are vigorous, while the closing scene, in Strasbourg's cathedral square, packs 3

n the unlikely event of a mobile phone company offering me a "one to one" with a late lamented idol. ' think I would call Lionel Bart. Unambitious, I know. compared to Mr Chris Evans's desire for transcendental discourse with John Lennon (what a meeting of minds that would be), but I have my reasons. In my mercifully brief career as a jobbing pianist I found myself almost permanently accompanying school productions of Bart's masterpiece, Oliver!. As a result I can still perform almost the entire score from memory. You

don't get that from Alfred Brendel. Anyway, during one of those in-terminable school shows — with the fragrance of cabbage wasting alluringly over the deputy headmismess's improbable impersonation of a Victorian tart - I leant over to the flautist (a grizzled veteran of those £20-per-week pit bands) and said: "At least Lionel Bart is making a packet out of this." Whereupon he fixed me with a look as forform as his trills. "Poor bugger doesn't make a penny out of Oliv-

المحال ا

er!" he hissed. "But then, he didn't write a note of it."

This Delphic whisper, scarcely audible under the cries of "Fagin, you avaricious old skeleton!" coming from the overexcited gym master chewing the scenery, intrigued me. I found out that the flautist spoke nothing less than the literal truth. Bart had indeed naively sold the priceless rights to his magnum opus for just £15,000 - after being ruined by booze, LSD, the ghastly flop of Twang!, a pilfering platoon of gay pick-ups, and a short-lived but exceedingly tolerable stab at a

lifestyle that made the Aga Khan look dowdy. Well, that's showbiz. And he really didn't write a note of Oliver!. He couldn't write music at all. He composed by humming natty tunes to fit his snappy lyrics. The son of a Jewish tailor, he was the closest thing to Irving Berlin that Britain ever produced. But the

tedious matter of supplying notation, harmony and orchestration he happily left to postdoctoral graduates grateful for pittances.

These snippets of Bart-lore fasci-nated me. How did he rise from East End obscurity to massive esteem, launching Cliff Richard and Tommy Steele with his whistlesome ditties, conceiving the most enduring British musical between The Mikado and Cats, dating Judy Garland, schmoozing with Princess Margaret? And why did he then fall so fast and so far?

Much later I met Bart. By then he was living over a shop in Acton. His finances were broken, but not his Cockney-lad optimism. He was, as they say in the East End, forever blowing bubbles. He had "200 new songs stashed away", he had musicals practically ready for the West End on subjects ranging from Golda Meir to Quasimodo. I



RICHARD MORRISON

was consumed with embarrassment in the face of what I pompously assumed to be rank self-delusion, and never wrote up the interview. If Bart wondered why not, he never phoned to ask. And last Saturday he died of cancer.

So now I must enter the realms

of hypothetical one-to-ones across romanticised as modern-day Dick the footlights in the theatre of mortality. What would I ask Bart if he were still here? The traits that first fascinated me about him no longer seem so peculiar. After all, pop music is full of people who can't notate their own tunes. And Bart wasn't the first showbiz celebrity to take the Hogarthian road from rags to riches to ruin, nor the last. The very bravado that makes for a successful theatre creature often leads inexorably towards nemesis.

No, what I would like to know, but now never will, is whether the theory I evolved about Oliver! while sitting through all those school shows has any basis in fact. It is that the musical has little to do with Oliver Twist as Dickens wrote it, and everything to do with the East End of Bart's heyday - a weirdly amoral place of seedy glamour in which the Krays were

Turpins, and thrill-seeking showbiz swingers tripped the light fantastic down the Mile End Road to party with gangland barons.

y contention is that Bart pulled off an insouciantpiece of literary subversion. After all, Dickens intended Twist to be a brutally moralistic tale of real life on the "cold, wet. shelterless, midnight streets" of 1830s London. He wanted to show criminals "in all their deformity". His outrage leaps from every page. even today. He consigned Fagin to the most terrifying death-cell scene in literature. His Sikes is a murderous psychopath who bludgeons his prostitute lover to death. His Beadle is a grotesque sadist.

Most of this Bart dumped. Instead he recast Dickens in an East End populated by cheeky urchins,

loveable rogues and tarts with hearts - just as Frank Loesser had immortalised the equally unlikely honourable hoodlums of Damon Runyan's New York ten years earlier in Guys and Dolls.

Bart lived to recognise the irony of what he had done by sanitising Dickens. In 1994, shortly before Cameron Mackintosh triumphantly revived Oliver! at the Palladium fand, to his eternal credit, voluntarily paid Bart the royalties that the composer had signed away 25 years earlier). Bart gave an almost apologetic interview. "In 1960," he claimed, "homeless people in the streets were fiction, straight out of Dickens. Now they are real again."

He certainly wasn't the century's sharpest social commentator, nor its most profound tunesmith. But he did create something that will live as long as people have voices to sing. And I know that I will possess to my dying day the peculiarly useless ability to play the score of Oliver! from memory. How Bart might have laughed at that, had I plucked up the nerve to tell him.



Kyle Eastwood leading his quintet at Pizza Express: it was the biopic of Charlie Parker directed by his father that lured him away from movies into jazz

Bird who flew Clint's nest

aving grown up in a house full of his father Clint's jazz records, Kyle Eastwood might reasonably have been expected to have developed an interest in the music. But it wasn't until his celebrated parent made Bird - a film biography of Charlie Parker that Kyle, impressed like many before him by the dramatic life of the great alto virtuoso, decided to make his living playing jazz, instead of follow-ing his father into film.

Listeners to Kyle East-wood's debut alburn, From There to Here, with its stellar cast ranging from Joni Mitch-ell and Julia Fordham to jazz luminaries Mark Isham and Peter Erskine — not to men-tion arranger Vince Mendoza - might be forgiven for reserving judgment concerning the strictly jazz-based credentials of Eastwood fils. Certainly, anyone who heard the music alone - which ranges from material by Marvin Gave and Tom Waits to originals by Eastwood's then pianist Matt McGuire, much of it performed by a big band — would never pick out the bassist as the leader, competent as his contributions are throughout.

Kvie Eastwood Pizza Express, W1

The band under Eastwood's name currently touring Europe, however, is another matter. The music played by tenor player Eric Alexander, trumpeter Jim Rotondi, pianist Jon Regen and drummer Yoron Israel alongside Eastwood is homogeneous (a pretty straightforward take on the hard bop forever associated with Blue Note recordings of the 1950s and 1960s) and unadorned by soulful guest vocals. Even their versions of the McGuire compositions featured on the album sounded altogether snappier than their recorded manifestations, and their second-set nod to Thelonious Monk - a lively visit to We See - nailed their colours firmly to the mast.

Beginning with two Mc-Guire tunes, Watch, Watch and Enter Evening, the quintet clearly looked to Rotondi and Alexander, who have been playing and recording together since the early 1990s, to

than being propelled - as bass-led bands such as Dave Holland's are - by Eastwood. The leader did prove, though, in taking the night's first solo, that he can plot a surefooted course through a chord se-quence, and that he has a pleasingly full-bodied, earnest sound that will benefit greatly from the increased technical assurance inevitably resulting from his current live exposure in such sympathetic company.

The highlights of the evening's music were to be found mainly in passages of interplay between the deliciously tight drumming of Israel and the sly, discursive piano of Regen, but when Alexander built up a head of steam — as he did in the second set's opener, an Eastwood/McGuire composition titled Da Da Ba Ba Nu Nu — he demonstrated not only the big sound associated with Chicago tenors, but also a nimbleness that contrasted tellingly with Rotondi's more forthright trumpet contributions. If Eastwood's name attracts attention it is heartening that the likes of Alexander and Rotondi should benefit.

CHRIS PARKER

Cause and effect

pirited music-making in support of a good cause made this concert special. But then not all charigalas secure the services of Vladimir Ashkenazy. who was conducting in aid of the Everyman - Action Against Male Cancer appeal, and not all such events are the result of a happy end: this was the brainchild of the double-bass player Tom Croxon, here with his Philharmonia Orchestra colleagues celebrating a victory over testicular cancer.

Optimism rules at least the heginning of Candide, and Bernstein's overture got the concert off to a cracking start.

> Philharmonia/ Ashkenazy Festival Hall

Ashkenazy shaped a crisp account, full of swagger, and the winds and percussion provided a brittleness that contrasted very effectively with the warmth of the strings.

Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F is another New York composer's portrait of home. The work pulses with big-city energy, and here it received a bighearted performance. Ashkenazy was alert and communicative, more than simply an accompanist in the ongoing dialogue between piano and orchestra. Few pianists have more feeling for the idiom than Peter Jablonski, who brought just the right blend of cheekiness and pathos to his part. The Andante was memorable for Mark David's laid-back. bluesy trumpet solos, and the finale was appropriately frantic without ever turning brash.

Similarly, Ashkenazy emphasised the lyrical beauty of mo, who is as ardent a champi-Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheheraa zade. He drew a performance Finnish conductor, and the rich in instrumental detail. and the woodwind solus were outstandingly played. The first movement had broad sweep. and the third poetic languor: real excitement was saved for the dose, driven vigorously but never pushed too hard.

JOHN ALLISON

Young, gifted and inadequately funded

ith The Lion, the Witch and the Wardthe National Youth Orchestra to the right, there wasn't a flapjack to be had at the Barbican coffee points on Wednesday. This was a seriously underage night; with the difference being that, in the Barbican Hall, the voracious flapjack guzziers turned out to be the ones on stage.

One hundred and fifty-two of them, no less. A year ago. they were corporately 50 years old: on Wednesday night the youngest were a pair of 14-year-old twins from Malvern, and the eldest a 19-yearold cellist from Edinburgh. It could have been any one of London's finest orchestras on a really good night. On the basis that the young do today what the hoary old professionals do tomorrow, the NYO unwittingly provided a splendid curtain-raiser to the Barbican's forthcoming festival, St Petersburg: Romance and Revolution in a programme of three composers associated

CONCERTS

MYO/Otaka Barbican

First came Liadov, protégé of Mussorgsky and, by all accounts, a lazy man. He knew the things he liked, though, and his own little tableau The Enchanted Lake, intended for an opera he never got round to, was one of them. It was a brave way to start a concert, with the barely corporeal tremolandos of the strings and the veiled breathing of the woodwind inevitably having to hold their own above the clatter of programmes being noisily consulted and dropped (by the adults). The players' concentration was intense, their

focus absolute. Tadaaki Otaka, conducting. encouraged them to flex their muscle in Rachmaninov's Symphony No 3, written in exile from the St Petersburg of his student days, and surging with aching songs of a long-re-

milked the ardent responses of these young players, from the first bright flare of an up-beat, to the plangent Slavic song of the woodwind choir. and on to the great final Dies Irae to which the entire symphony's language and expression seem to lead - at least in a performance as tautly paced

as this one.

was Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. In Ravel's high-gloss orchestration the work becomes a veritable concerto for orchestra, and Otaka ensured that there was time and space enough to reveal the intensive work done during the orchestra's Easter course by Peter Stark who prepared the programme, and by all the section coaches. The result was a thrillingly virtuoso performance by an orchestra which receives less than 2 per cent of its annual income from the State. Something wrong, surely?

HILARY FINCH

Flawed Finnish myth

👅 f the Kullervo Symphony were by anyone other probably never be heard at all. It's long, it's expensive to perform and it's badly written. The regular anticipations of stylistic features associated with the mature composer and the rather less frequent inspirations in narrative or characterisation do not compensate for the generally undistinguished material of the work and its clumsy construction.

Even so, there was every reason to hope that Sakari Oraon of Sibelius as any other City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which has be-come thoroughly familiar with Sibelius in the recent past, would make a persuasive case for Kullerro. In fact, after holding the structure precariously together through the four first movements, the conductor did succeed in getting the final sec-

CBSO/Oramo Birmingham

tion, Kullervo's death, to fall into place as though it belongs there. There was some longterm satisfaction in that. There was some emotional interest too in the solo performances of Lilli Paasikivi, who was particularly effective in lamenting the fate of the hero's unfortunate sister, and Heikki Kilpelainen, who was suitably sullen as Kullervo himself. The male voices of the CBSO Chorus, though not entirely at ease with their lines from the Kale-

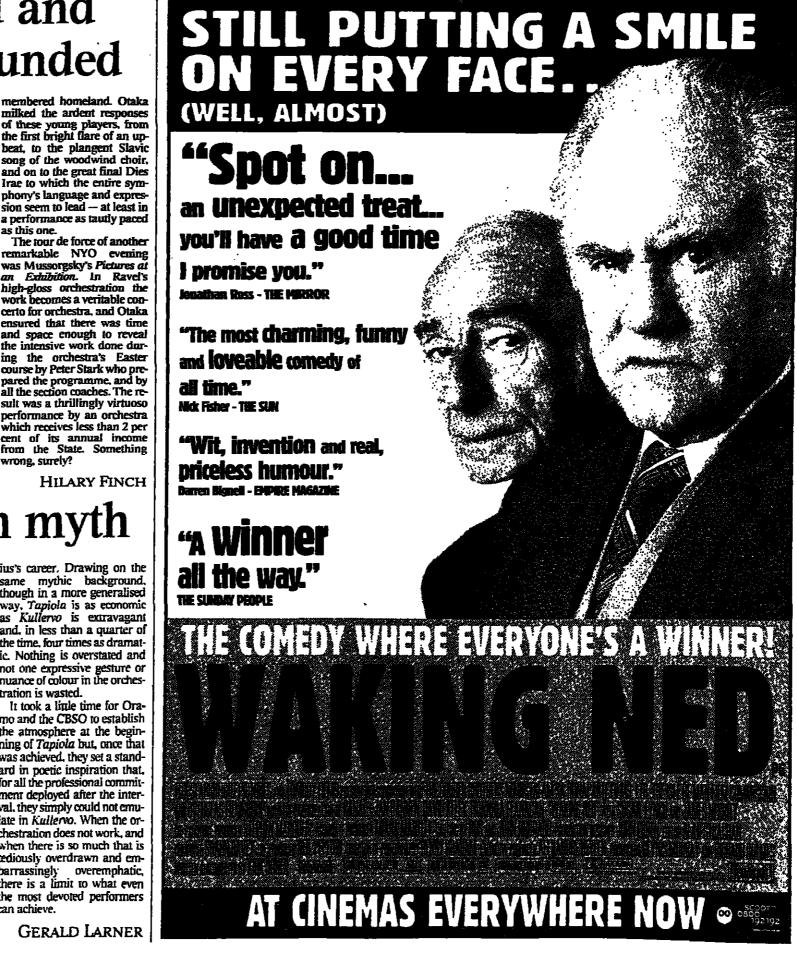
the story along. One of the problems with the presentation of that early score in Symphony Hall on this occasion, however, was the decision to open the concert with a masterful work from the other end of Sibel-

vala, were energetic in moving

ius's career. Drawing on the same mythic background. though in a more generalised way, Tapiola is as economic as Kullervo is extravagant and, in less than a quarter of the time, four times as dramatic. Nothing is overstated and not one expressive gesture or nuance of colour in the orchestration is wasted.

It took a little time for Oramo and the CBSO to establish the atmosphere at the beginning of Tapiola but, once that was achieved, they set a standard in poetic inspiration that, for all the professional commitment deployed after the interval. they simply could not emulate in Kullervo. When the orchestration does not work, and when there is so much that is tediously overdrawn and embarrassingly overemphatic, there is a limit to what even the most devoted performers

can achieve. GERALD LARNER



ARTS

The return of prog-rock

The prickly edge of prog

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

LONDON

ESCAPE FROM PTERODACTYL ISLAND: Award-winning American musical based on the genre of early sofil novets, with new rock'n'roll songs from Michael Jeffery. Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

ENDLESS DARADE: The senes of post-war classical British music continues here. The highlight of an action-packed weekend is the performance tomorrow (Festival Hall, 7.30pm) by the BBC Philhamonic Orchestre under Yan Pascal Torteler of Benjamin British's last opera Derith in Vence with Anthony Roles Johnson in the role of Ascherbach.

At the same time on Sunday, as part of the International Series, the Festival Hall plays host to Haydh's Creanon, performed by the London Philhamonic Orchestra and Choir conducted by Roger Northglon.

South Bank (0171-960 4242). S

AN EQUAL MUSIC. The prize-whiting author Vilorem Seth reads extracts from his latest novel. A line-up of clistinguished musicians headed by the piants Joanna MacGregor play selected pieces by Haydin, Mozari, Bach, Beethoven and Schubert, set in the context of the literary work. Wigmore Half (0171-935 2141). Torught, 7:30pm. (5)

ELSEWHERE

CHESTER: The Cheek By Jowl adaptation of Thackeray's Vanity Fair, directed now by Deborah Shaw with Ceka White as Becky Sharp. Galleway (01244 340382). Previews from tonight, 8pm. (5)



Yan Pascal Tortelier conducts the BBC PO

recording of Paul Parey's Jeanne d'Arc Mass was nominated for a Grammy Award last year. Here the orchestra returns to the work in a concert which also includes Berfloz's Symphome Fartishque. James Paul conducts. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: The Russian con Germadi Rozhdestvensky makes his debut with the Royal Liverpool Phil-harmonic Orchestra in a concert les turing Snostakovich's Symphony No B. The conductor shares the amelight with his wile. Viktoria Postnikova, who joins the orchestra as soloist in Mozart's Ninth Plano Concerto.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London ■ House tuil, returns only 🏿 Some seats available 🗋 Seats at all prices

 MAMMA MIAI: Musical based on the songs of Abba. Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phylida Lloyd directs. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

THE GIN GAME: Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sod lives. Firth Barbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Savoy (0171-836 8888). 🔊

☐ THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE, Richard Dreyluss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play kut big City angst. Setre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930

■ GOOD C.P.Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast.

☐ THE COLONEL BIRD. Bulgarian author Hristo Boylchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken ove by the lunatics. Rupart Gould directs. See review, page 34. Gate (0171-229 0706). &

☐ BLOOD KNOT: Bany Wallman and Gordon Case star in Athol Fu-gard's updated version of his cele-brated black and while brothers play. Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111). (5)

☐ SACRED HEART: Mick Mehoney's iew one, where two second-genera-ion Insh lads from NW3 meet again ofter years estranged. Imbassadors (0171-565 5000).

rengton plays Wilde, with William Hoy-land and Clive Francis as coursel for and against, in Moises Kaulman's play. ☐ HAMLET: Paul Phys plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's produc-tion. With Donald Sumter as Claudius. See reivew, page 34. Young Vic (0171-928 6363). 🖺

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Measy court-room drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparking form as two sharks in a case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscast as a heterosexual New Age Svengati. Rose Troche directs NO (15): Robert Lepage's supple, neo (19): nobert Lapage's suppre, black comedy forms a psychedelic chain of coincidences between a Caradian acress and her bomb-making boytriand. A teasing puzzle about politics and art.

THE FACULTY (15): Fishy sci-fi

chiller with high correctly quote from Kevin Williamson. A faculty of school-teachers get taken over by alien squids from outer space. Director Robert Rodinguez flogs the creeping paramosa with seat-clusching wit. SLAM (15): Saul Williams puts in a ensational performance as a blaci rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

HIGH ART (18): Ally Sheedy and Radha Mitchell spread lesbian gloom and doom in an upmarket photograORGAZMO (18): Tube station ele-

CURRENT TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of dry humour fluminate Zeffinell's tribute to the English spirsters who rased him in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century sweshbuckle mildly amusing if you like being mugged. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): An ingenious comedy about a man (Brandan Fraser) released alter 35 years in a muclear bunker. Bill Kelly

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): THE NIGHT OF THE HOUSEN (12): Charles Laughton's only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unfor gettable. A classic 1955 fear move.



Stiffening their spines: Porcupine Tree — "the word 'progressive' is actually used to mean 'regressive'"

could teach us a thing or two about musical laissez-faire. As Porcupine Tree prepared to play a second night for an attentive and socially diverse au-

rock band, but you see the au-

dience tonight, they're not peo-

like good songs and experi-

mental production."

keyboard player Richard Barbieri. Along the way, they have sold 100,000 albums, while people back home simply ignored them. The release of their fifth album, Stupid Dream, is being marked with a set of British dates, but they are bookended by much bigger shows in such homes-from-home as Rome, Athens and Warsaw. Wilson believes that our European partners

uggling carries its own cyanide

Progressive rock,

despised at

home, is coining

it all over

Europe. Paul

Sexton reports

ing to win the majority over to

the principles of PR. Not pro-

portional representation, but

that great misunderstood beast called progressive rock.

a compliment in a dreamy age of Roger Dean doodles and ELP posters on 10,000 bedsit

walls, has now become so pejo-

rative that when Mansun's sec-.

ond album Six turned out to be ditty-free, their detractors gleefully hissed "prog-rock" at

them. It was the verbal equiva-

lent of chucking rotting vegeta-bles during their guitar solos.

But beyond the cynical gaze of the fashion constabulary.

Porcupine Tree have spent al-

most the entire decade becom-

ing a secret British success sto-

ry in European countries

where you can utter the dread-

ed phrase without fear of de-

portation. Almost unknown at

home, the quartet regularly

play sell-out tours of Europe to

four-figure-capacity venues, nurturing a fan base that many of their countrymen

Created as a bedroom exper-

iment by chief composer and

vocalist Steven Wilson as a

teenager in the late 1980s, Por-

cupine Tree gradually evolved

into a real live band, with re-

cruits including former Japan

would love to hack into.

A phrase that was coined as

ike Liberal Demo-

crats on the margins

of British music, Por-

cupine Tree are fight-

The key to such European harmony lies simply in a little publicity. A Rome station, Radie Rock, got hold of an earlier Porcupine Tree album and dience at the 2,000-capacity has played them into the ground ever since. "We'd only Palacisalfa in Rome recently. been playing as a band for six months." Wilson recalls, "and Wilson said: "Somehow we've become labelled a progressive we got booked to play a show in Rome. At the time, we were playing gigs in London to 100 people. We turned up in Italy. ole who listen to progressive rock. They're just people who walked on and realised we'd sold out this 1,200-seater."

No such luck back home, where most album rock is caught in mainstream radio's exclusion zone. "Generally speaking, in Britain they don't play your stuff unless it's a single. Virgin is supposedly a rock station, but it just seems to be Losing My Religion and Alanis Morissette every five minutes," Wilson says.

It is a problem shared by another uncelebrated British rock export, Delirious?. who have had even bigger sales

abroad and recently achieved their third British Top 20 single. See the Star. but continue to be cold-shouldered here by television and radio. "In the end," says Wilson,

"it's music by people who are not afraid to play their instruments. I think our new album has as much in common with Radiohead as with Pink Floyd, but once you're labelled, you

And for those obliged to deal with it. the prog-rock imprima-

as welcoming as a cross on the door of a medieval plague house. "It has become a paradox," says Wilson. "To use the word 'progressive' actually means 'regressive'. If you look at the dictionary definition moving forward, doing something new, whatever it says -

I think we're all of those things, but unfortunately [know that 99 per cent of the times that the word is used, it's meant in the sense of 'sounds like Genesis, sounds like Marillion'." Stupid Dream may occa-

sionally summon the spirit of Meddle, may even be charged with the occasional Nursery Cryme, but is in essence an evocative sonic sun shower largely free of the tendency towards portentous twaddle of supposed forebears. Obliged to operate as a secret society experimental rock tends to appeal to a certain

stereotype, as Wilson admits.

The people we get through
to in England tend to be the more obsessive males. We come here to Rome and we get teenage girls. It's a different

f only radio programmers bothered to open the box, they would find that Stupid Dream contains some enjoyable fingerfood as part of the full menu, such as the elegantly harmonised Stranger by the Minute and Piano Lessons. Therein lies the fun, says Barbieri.

"If you can put experimentation into a pop song. like the Byrds or the Beach Boys did. for me that's the most interesting thing about music. It's what makes great albums." Wilson rounds off the point: The modern equivalent would be the first Portishead album. An extraordinary sound, but still great pop songs. If you can fuse the two. that's a timeless record."

● Stupid Dream is available on K-Scope Records/Snapper Music. Porcupine Tree play the Foundry, Birmingham. tonight; Pavilion. Brighton, tomorrow, Boardwalk, Sheffield (16): Cottier, Glasgow (17); New Trinity. Bristol (23); Sputhampton University (24); and ... the Bloomsbury in London on

Mussolini with balls

pill - an art form in which the highest state is to make some thing insanely difficult look absolutely mechanical. The cynical may say that this is why comedy is essential to juggling - it reminds the audience that you may very possibly mess up. and isn't it exciting that you do not?

Sean Gandini is regarded by many as the finest juggler in the country. His winning way with seven balls is discussed in hushed tones by students of the circus, his revolutionary integration of juggling and contemporary dance is nodded over sagely by critics of the flexed instep, his ensemble performances are regarded as something of an annual highlight by those in the know. Remembering Rastelli, the new work from the Gandini Juggling Project at the Circus Space. Hoxton, looks at the life of this century's greatest juggler, and parallels his life with that of Benito Mussolini. In fact it is a virtuoso display of ensemble and solo juggling conducted for the most part in an atmosphere of extreme minimalism.

There are occasional sallies into the world of entertainment, including a sprinkling of vaudeville pastiche. Members of the cast attempt to outdo each other with feats of skill and co-ordination, the high point of which finds one man balancing a club on his chin, a football on his ankle, another club on one finger, on the wrist of which hand a hoop is kept spinning while he juggles with the other hand. There are also episodes of ex-

0171 930 8800 cc 344 4444 (bigg feel RICHARD MARSHA

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BIG MUSICAL

RICHARD

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CIRCUS

quisite grace in which the company dances arm-in-arm while maintaining a flow of balls with their spare hands. But for all the skill, much of this highly choreographed work is so perfect that it becomes somewhat too

mesmerising for the non-aficionado. The Great Basofal, alias Bob Pearce, is a saggy little man in a string vest and long grubby pants. His childlike mixture of confusion and curiosity is hardly surprising given that he exists in a world where ballpoint pens and clipboards fall from the sky, and where a spacecraft can

be conjured from a large linoleum square and a folded sheet.

His Hoxton show takes the form of a Heath Robinsonesque journey, complete with space travel and giant birds. Since Basofal spends much of his time stranded, either in the interstellar doldrums or shipwrecked by storm, it would be fair to see his journey in the larger sense, a vision of the soul's progress through a series of lives in which the mortal body is left behind and existence is guided by a clipboard-providing life form. What, then, is life like for the Great Basofal?

Having signed his official documents, Basofal sets out on a journey, tries to fry eggs, brings up a baby

bird, throws bread around, encounters a space storm, faces up to his own mortality, grows old and climbs a ladder. It is not a particularly revolutionary view of existence, but then Basofal is not a revolutionary clown.

Perhaps it is churlish to expect a silent little man in ill-fitting trousers to provide transcendental insights into the nature of existence, but Basofal does seem to be more of a philosophical clown than a comic one, and at the very least should be able to persuade his audience to see the world as he does for a few minutes.

It is only when he gets a co-star, in the form of a papier-maché skull, that things start to take off, and the skit in which the pair fight over the ownership of a bowler hat is probably the most successful of the whole show.

HETTIE JUDAH

OUIETLY

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LIST **Vanity**



GLASGOW: The spers on 5: shows sith as The Real Monty, above, have earned David Elstein the label of tack merchant

Too tacky for words

nel 5 boss, furned when he saw a draft of last week's annual performance review by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) and suggested a vital change in vocabulary. The word "tackiness", used by the ITC to describe his channel's late-night erotic drama and sex documentaries - The Real Monty, Sex and Shopping and so on — seemed to him . . . well, a bit tacky. But the ITC stuck with the T-word, calculating that it would

ensure lip-smacking coverage. So it did, inspiring the Daily Mail to name Elstein its new "Pornographer in Chief", a title that has lain vacant since Michael Grade left Channel 4 two years ago. Elstein makes the point that the Mail is hostile to Channel 5 because Lord Hollick's United News and Media, one of the channel's principal shareholders, owns the rival Express.

Channel 4 always said the Mail's anti-Grade campaign boosted ratings — an effect now evident at 5, where Dawn

DAVID ELSTEIN, the Chan- Airey. director of pro- chant cannot help Elstein's meets the deadline, all will be grammes, tells me it is getting calls asking: "We've heard about this tacky stuff - can you tell us where to find it?"

> ■ ONE reason why the ITC refused to soften its judgment on Elstein was that 5's forays into filth had already been sav

already slim chance of succeeding Sir John Birt as Director-General of the BBC, however strenuously he points out that late night naughtiness was part of the Channel's original licence application. And who wrote the application? Step forward Greg Dyke, Channel 5



aged by the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC). the busybody watchdog left over from the Thatcher years. whose meddling the ITC has long resented. By being as tough on porn as the rival quango, the ITC hopes to per-suade Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, that the BSC does nothing it can't do better. Being branded a tack mer-

chairman and current frontrunner for the BBC job. But then who said life was fair?

■ AS HE watches tomorrow's Grand National, Greg Dyke may reflect that the horse that leads early on is not often first past the post. A foreign-trained outsider whose name crops up in the betting for Director-General is Howard Stringer, president of the Sony Corporation and a former president of CBS, one of the US

national TV networks. Although he has never worked in Britain, 56-year-old Stringer comes from Wales and tells friends he would quite like to go back. Mind you, if Nahthen Lad wins tomorrow for Jenny Pitman in her last National, she could become D-G on a wave of national sentiment.

JOURNALISTS are congenitally unable to keep secrets, which is why the shaming shenanigans that happen in every national newspaper are regularly exposed in Private Eye and elsewhere. So it is ambitious of Penguin to commission an anthology of insights into the trade and call it Secrets of the Press.

Edited by Stephen Glover. first editor of the Independent on Sunday, there will be chap-ters on killer interviews, gossip columns, getting fired. press pubs and much else. Contributors include Anthony Howard, Lynn Barber, Richard Ingrams, Lynne Truss and Paul Foot. "Some of it's knockabout stuff," says Glover, "but there are some more

revealed in October.

■ THIS week's loss of 30 jobs at the BBC's Pebble Mill headquarters in Birmingham, coming on top of its 24 radio redundancies in Manchester last week, has chilled the heart of the corporation's staff in the English regions.

Many believe they are victims of the strategy to pump extra resources into Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland in the name of devolution. One small comfort: total closure of Pebble Mill seems unlikely. only because Ranjit Sondhi, the BBC Governor responsible for the English regions, has lived in Birmingham for 30 years and can be expected to defend his patch.

THE unseemly set-to at last menth's National Press Awards, where emotional tabloid editors complained that too many prizes went to the broadsheets, is unlikely to be repeated when the first Hugh Cudlipp Award is presented at the end of the year. For one thing the new award, initiated by the British Journalism Review, is restricted to tabloids. For another the sponsor, BT, has committed a mere £2,000, which rules out a lavish kneesup with a limitless supply of inflammatory substances.

Finally the prestigious judg-ing panel — including three veteran former editors and the Mail's Keith Waterhouse and Ann Leslie — is too grand and sober for fisticuffs.

■ THE Kosovo crisis has brought a welcome increase in viewers for BBC TV's muchderided 24-hour news channel. About half a million extra viewers are tuning in taking the audience to around five million a week. Of these, more than three million are night owls who watch on their normal TV sets after BBCl has closed down.

Most of the additional viewers, though, catch *News 24* on cable or digital, seeking a crisis update when there is no bulletin on the main channels. "At least it gives the lie to the old joke that we are only watched by three people," says a spokeswoman.

serious pieces." If everyone • Maggie Brown is away.

ITV viewing figures slump

A MONTH after shifting News at Ten to strengthen its peak schedule, ITV's share of viewing has fallen to its lowest this year, reports Broadcast. The network won less than 30 per cent of the total audience for the week ended April 4, compared with 36.3 per cent for the week ended March 14, when the new schedule was introduced and the quiz show Who Wants to be a Millionaire? boosted ratings. Peaktime share in the week ending April 4 was 34.7 per cent, well below the target of 39 per cent. The network has yet to find a programme to screen at 10pm that can regularly draw as many viewers as News at Ten.

■ IN A REMARKABLE about-turn, Bass Brewers is changing the image of Caffrey's ale and concealing its trish identity.

Marketing Week reports that it is to be repositioned as premium beer pitched at drinkers of up-

market lagers such as Stella Artois and Beck's. The brand's new ad agency, Roose & Partners, has devised a campaign without a whiff of the old Irish nostalgia. Bass's marketing director. Mark Hunter, says: "The danger was that Caffrey's could become a brand leader in a one-brand Irish ale category."

A TELEVISED version of The Economist, the weekly current-affairs magazine, is to be made by the independent producer Mentorn International. says Broadcast. With the working title The News Tomorrow, the programme will include predictions and analyses of national and international news. It will be offered to broadcasters in Britain and abroad.

LOSS-MAKING cable channel Live TV is laying off nearly 30 per cent of its jour-nalists in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh in a move away from local news reporting, says Press Gazette.

The managing director Mark Cullen explained that research showed entertainment, sport and global events to be 'more viewer-friendly" than local hard news. Two of the three daily half-hour bulletins will be dropped, and staff at the three newsdesks cut from 20 to 14. Last year the channel, owned by Mirror Group, lost £9 million.

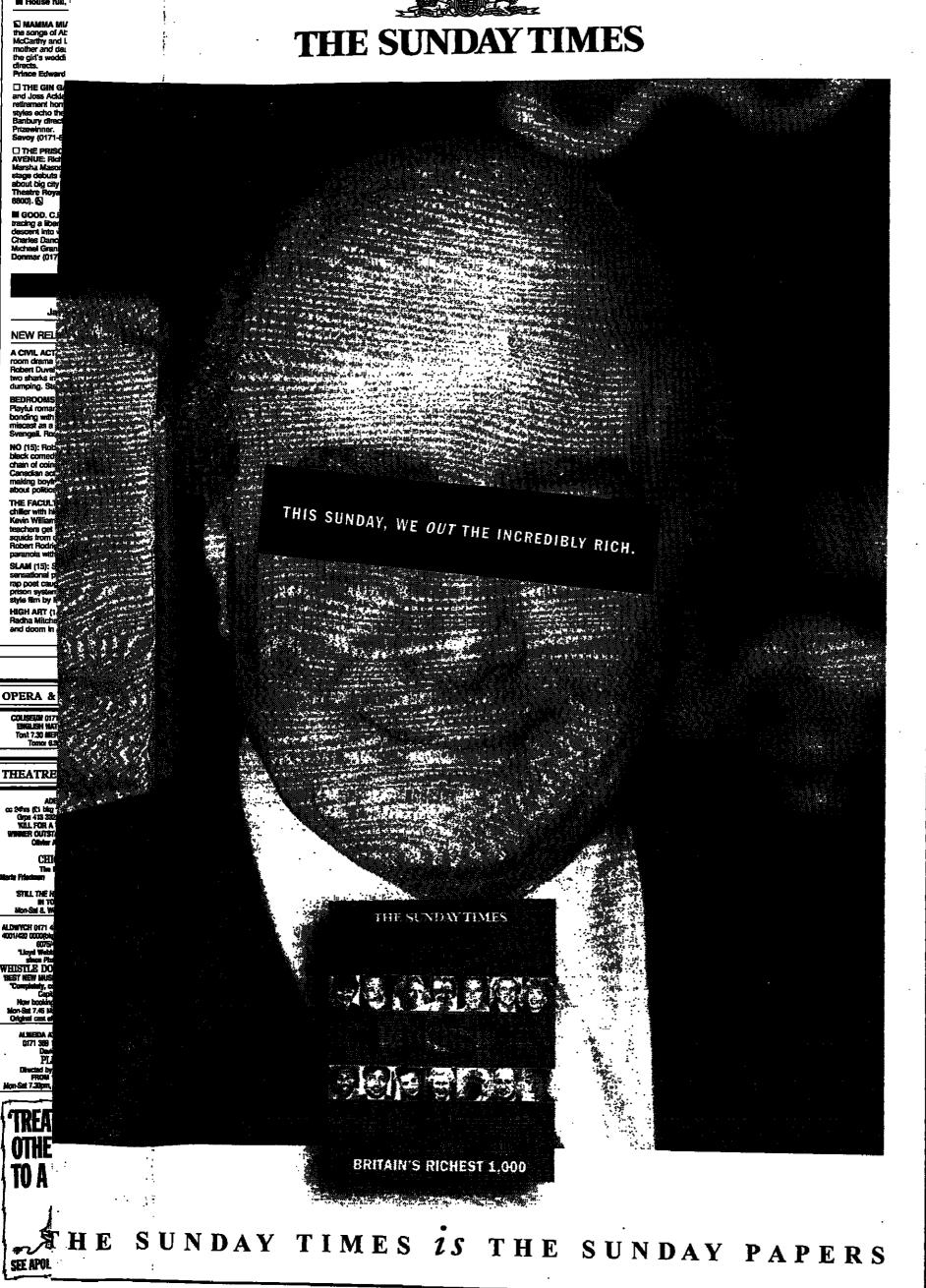
■ HEALTH and fitness continue to be growth areas in magazine publishing. Marketing Week reports that Mollin Publishing, after launching the British edition of Shape this week, is planning to bring to Britain another American title, Jump, a teenage magazine with a fitness angle. Meanwhile Holland & Barrett, the health-food chain, is to launch bi-monthly magazine. Healthy.

GING FACES: Australian model Mimi MacPherson be the new face

of Foster's Formula One sponsorship; US coffee chain Starbucks appoints Helen Benedict of Colgate Palmolive to spearhead drive into Europe (Marketing Week). James Pool to be relationship director at Delaney Fetcher Bozell: John Dean becomes creative director at Partners BDDH; Chris Dada, award-winning director of commercials, joins Academy (Campaign). Jon Molyneux, UK head of Apple Computer, to be managing director of online information service Scoot (Marketing).

■ GETTING THE BUSI-NESS: Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO wins account for Gillette Right Guard and Natrel Plus deodorants: Davies Little Cowley Fiddes to launch European sales drive for Mills & Boon books (Campaign). Computer firm Acer appoints Leo Burnett to run £30 million global branding campaign (Marketing Week).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN



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Making a cynical but grimly entertaining pitch straight at the pre-teens: Marshall Mathers from Detroit, aka Eminem

Nasty, brutis ne and all too cate

EMINEM The Slim Shady LP (Aftermath Ent/ Interscope 490 287 E15.99)
IN AMERICA, where it has already sold a million copies. The Slim Shady LP has prompted howls of moral indignation, not just from the usual coalition of concerned parents and ambitious politi-cians, but from the heart of the liberal music establishment itself. In a strongly worded article, the editor of Billboard has decried the violently misogynous imagery of Eminem's lyrics and solemnly urged his readers not to purchase the alburn by the 24-year-old rap star otherwise known as Mar-

shall Mathers, from Detroit, The Slim Shady LP is certainly extreme. Guilty Conscience, in which Eminem plays the roles of an armed robber, a rapist and a double murderer with mischievous and explicit gusto, is typical. In 97 Bonnie & Clyde an even darker narrative unfolds as the song's murderous central character whispers sweet nothings to his infant daughter while disposing of the dead body of her (pregnant) mother in a lake: "There goes Mama, splashing in the water/No more fighting with Dad, no more restraining order/No more step-Dada, no more new brother/Blow a kiss-a-byebye, tell Mama you love her."

But the celebration of human depravity in the popular arts is nothing new. Indeed, in cinema, theatre, television drama and literature the line between humour and horror has become hopelessly blurred and the tenderly observed depiction of grotesquely anti-social behaviour is now a staple theme. So why all the fuss when similarly outre subjectmatter finds its way into popu-

In the case of Eminem the answer is twofold. First, his music is so obviously and cynically pitched at children. With its classroom imagery and kids' humour, the (heavily edit**NEW POP ALBUMS:** Murder, rape,

robbery — Eminem certainly trawls the cesspit, David Sinclair says

ed) single, My Name Is, cur-rently at No 2 in the British chart, is cleverly designed to appeal to a pre-teen market: "Hi kids, do you like violence? (Yeah!)/Wanna see me stick nine inch nails through each one of my eyelids?"

But the key to most of the fuss is Eminem's skill as a communicator, which, coupled with his inspired sense of musical drama, makes listening to this album as compulsive and grimly entertaining as watching a Tarantino film. Like water, truly popular music seeps in everywhere, and al-though the attitude informing this album is ideologically indefensible, it is nevertheless pop of an exceptionally high order and thus all the more subversive. We may have heard such things before, but this time it is going to prove wellnigh impossible to ignore.

In the number If I Had. Eminem sets out his manifesto with a characteristically blunt turn of phrase: "If I had one wish/I'd ask for a big enough

Top of the Popus BBC1, tonight 7.30pm

ass for the whole world to kiss". Whatever the objections, the world may well end up having to do just that.

Equally Cursed And Blessed Blanco Y Negro 398427094

AS THEY stand on the brink of success on a Robbie-esque scale, Catatonia have taken pains to ensure that this, their third album, does not come laden with 100 much baggage from the past. Only one song! a fast, minimalist, punk anthem called Storm the Palace, unequivocally recalls their indie-rock origins, while the epic Dazed. Beautiful and Bruised provides a suitably brash

Otherwise, the album comprises a succession of songs such as Bulimic Beats, Nothing Hurts, She's a Millionaire and the current single, Dead from the Waist Down, in a more subdued, easy-listening vein. The best, by a long way;

is Londinium, a number which provides a suitably bustling chorus while discreetly signalling the group's dislike of the capital: "London never sleeps, it just sucks/The life out of me".

While Cerys Matthews remains a wonderfully characterful singer, there are times, as on the gossamer-light pop

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	Talk on Corners.	Corrs (Atlantic)
2	(4)	Forgiven, Net Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
3	(2)	Performance and Cocktails	
4	(9)	Gold Greatest Hits	Abba (Polydor)
	χ	Baby One More Time	Britney Spears (Ine)
	(6)	Step One	Steps (Inve)
7	(5)	Pve Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysatis)
8	(12)	Gran Terismo	Cardigans (Stockholm)
9	(10)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fathor Slim (Skint)
ıø	CB)	13	Div (Good)

• Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

The folk who live on the border

The Seas Are Deep (Lochshore CDLDL 1279) THE KELTZ are basically a folk trio who improvise, using reels, jigs and ballads as bases for extended explorations of the rhythmic and harmonic possibilities in traditional Celt-

Alan

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NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

ic music. As with Lammas, an-Paul Henderson's guitar and other band occupying the borthe various saxophones, whisder area between jazz and folk. tles and flutes - not to mention bazouki and bodhran - of the appeal of the Keltz's acoustic sound springs largely from Sean O'Rourke, all propelled the textural contrast between by the subtly vigorous percussion of Vijay Kangutkar. But, unlike the longer-established band, the Keltz have a rock-in-

fluenced side to their music. Henderson plays guitar synth as well as delicate acoustic guitar, and the power and fluency of his solos on the instrument, as well as its light precision in accompanying roles, give an extra dimension to the trio's music. The Keltz may not appeal to diehard purists in either camp, but the less rigid aficionados of both jazz and folk should find a great deal to enjoy in this neat, airy

> TÉRENCE BLANCHARD Jazz in Film (Sony Classical SK 60671) BEGINNING with Alex North's theme for A Streetcar

Named Desire and subse-

quently exploring scores rang-ing from Jerry Goldsmith's

Chinatown and Andre Pre-vin's The Subterraneans to Duke Ellington's little-known Degas's Racing World, Ter-ence Blanchard has certainly consolidated his reputation as a poised but fiery trumpeter with this, his first album for Sony Classical. He also draws elegant performances from his sidemen: saxophonists Joe Henderson and Donald Harrison, trombonist Steve Turre, and the late pianist Kenny

Kirkland.

Out and out jazz fans, however, may find Blanchard's arrangements, particularly his use of strings, a little polite: his sextet visit to Anatomy of a Murder, for instance, has just enough Mingusian robustness to invite distinctly unflattering comparisons with the late bassist's music. Sony. though, has promised "pure improvised jazz albums" as well as such "bridges between formally composed music and jazz" from Blanchard in the future, so the move may yet bear more robust fruit than this recording, polished and undeniably pleasant as it is.

CHRIS PARKER

COMPILATION ALBUMS

DISCO music - mindless, repetitive and soulless, claimed the critics back in the 1970s. But with the release of a lavishly presented 80-track four-CD set. The Disco Box (Rhino 75595), you can argue that the critics got it wrong.

True, there were records which do not deserve to be disinterred - Disco Tex and the Sex-O-Lettes should have been left to boogie in peace - but others still retain vitality: Chic, for instance, with Le Freak and Good Times, the foghorn-voiced Shirley and Company on Shame. Shame. Shame, Candi Staton's Young Hearts Run Free and Rose Royce's infectious Car Wash. People may throw their hands up in horror at hearing Village People's YMCA again, but I bet it still packs a dancefloor.

In the decade before disco. teenagers were still dancing, but they were doing the Madison, the Watusi, the Stroll and a dozen or so other dances featured on The Land of 1.000 Dances (Ace CDCHD702), a

Supposedly ephemeral hits such as the Isley Bothers' Twist and Shout, Bob and Earl's Harlem Shuffle or The Locomotion by Little Eva have all stood the test of the time.

One reason may be the skills of a group of songwriters who worked in New York's Brill Building in the late 1950s and early 1960s. On Broadway (Westside WESD216), a double-CD, concentrates on three husband-and-wife songwriting teams who dominated the charts with a series of three-minute classics. Carole King and Gerry Goffin brought us the above-mentioned Locomotion as well as Up on the Roof and I'm into Something Good. Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann gave us On Broadway and We Gotta Get Out of This Place, while Jeff Barry and Ellie Greenwich supplied Da Doo Ron Ron and Be My Baby. most of which can be heard here.

JOHN CLARKE

Caitlin Moran is on holiday this week

THE SUNDAY TIMES **SCOTLAND**



THE BIG FIGH PER VIE

This Saturday, the heavyweight contenders for the leadership of the Scottish Parliament go he in The Sunday Times — Channel Four debate, chaired by Jen Snow. This Sunday, The Sunday Times bring new NOP poll and asks who delivered Saturday's knockout blow?

THE SUNDAY TIMES is THE SUNDAY

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nior lecturs at South Balkans war: as reporters describe their battle to get the news out, the media are criticised for toeing Nato's line



An image from the video passed to the BBC shows the body of an ethnic Albanian in the village of Velike Krusa, Kosovo. The man who filmed it hid in terror for days

Finally we had proof

someone here who says he may have something from the other side. "The other side. We had been in Kukes for a week and had seen more than 200,000 women. children and elderly people fleeing from their homes into the mountainous north of Albania. No one knew what was happening in Kosevo. I had heard stories of murder, executions and rape. But nothing could be confirmed. Everyone need-

The state of the s

An hour after picking up the satellite phone and hearing this, I was driving up the mountain, at every corner passing tractors pulling trailers packed with refugees. The border post was an hour's drive from

George Alagiah and a respected loreign news cameraman. Tony Fallshaw, had overheard a man saying that he had a video from Kosovo. They did not know what was on it. They had only the word of one man who had fled his home.

As always, the next deadline was approaching. George and Tony needed to get back to the room that was now our home to edit for the evening news. I told both of them to

A cheap tape smuggled out of Kosovo provided hard evidence to back the refugees' tales of Serb atrocities. The BBC's Nicholas Springate tells how he obtained it

man and that I would go and talk now in Kukes and the other half,

At the border post more than 2.000 people were sitting on the ground. In the middle of this scene was a raised hut, with Sara standing outside. She had fled from Pristina to Macedonia, where she ended up working with us. She told me that the man was confused and wanted to tell us what he had seen so the BBC could tell the world what had happened in his village.

In the hut we found Milaim Bellanica. A slim man with a pale face. he was staring past the barrier and down the dark road that led to Kosovo and the Serb border crossing. Could this man — who would have been just another face in the thousands of faces there, had he not been pointed out to me - actually have evidence of the atrocities we had all heard about? Milaim was waiting for his brother, who had the tape. His family had been separated by the Serbs on the other side of the border. Half of them were

including his brother, had still not arrived. He was worried. It was getting late and he knew what the Serbs could do.

He was from the village of Kru-

sa-E-Madhe. On March 25 Serb militia — some of whom he knew came to the village, Milaim's birthplace. In fear of what might happen, the men had walked to mee: the armed militia so that the women and children could flee.

hen they realised why they had come, the men tried to escape. More than 100 had been killed, he said. The word "executed" was repeated.

He had hidden in his basement and only came out after five days. Then he was still too afraid to pick up his home video camera. After another two days, he did.

He told me this story over and over again. He produced a list that he had written of 40 of the men

ince Vietnam, news

management has been a key preoccupation of governments at

war. But in today's informa-

tion-rich environment the flow

of news is more difficult to con-

trol. Via the Internet, you can

reach both Yugoslav and Alba-

nian reports on the crisis in Ko-

sovo, as well as American and European news sites.

spokesmen persistently serve

us bite-size News McNuggets.

and most British people still

tely on their own media to tell

them what is happening. So

how successful have the Brit-

ish media been in providing

an informative account of the

Nato's bombing campaign started when the Rambouillet

negotiations broke down. Yet

there has been virtually no crit-

ical analysis of why this hap-

pened. What were the objec-

tions of the Yugoslav Govern-

The Boston Herald wrote

that 'The deal they were told

to accept, or else, involved im-

mediate autonomy for Kosovo

and a three-year transition to-

ward unspecified goals, super-

vised by Nato troops." In Brit-

ainwe are told that the Serbs

rejected a reasonable "peace

agreement". The Rambouillet

accord is on the Net (www.tran-

snational.org). Take a look

and ask yourself if you can

think of any sovereign state

This week, in response to an

offer of negotiations from Bel-

grade, Nato escalated its

bombing while politicians stepped up the rhetoric.

George Robertson, the De-

fence Secretary, said that Yugo-

slav forces in Kosovo were

"perpetrating the worst vio-

lence that some people have

On Wednesday the Evening

Standard highlighted News-

seen since medieval times".

that would accept its terms.

ment, for example?

Kosovo crisis?

Yet politicians and Nato

whose bodies he had seen. If he was telling the truth, these would be the first pictures from Kosovo since the

By now the camera lights that had flooded the border crossing had gone. Hours had passed. Sara was cold. Around us people were burning the boxes that had held their rations in order to keep warm. Milaim's brother had not appeared. I handed him a crumpled card with my name and too many elephone numbers on it, and asked him to meet me at dawn at the café where the BBC had based itself. I would be there and just wanted to know if he had the tape or not.

bombing began.

It was worth a try. That was what everyone said when I arrived back that night. If it did exist, the footage would be a world exclusive. Every journalist and news organisation was desperate for the first pictures from the other side.

It was not a wasted journey. I think we both smiled when we saw each other that morning. He handed me the tape. It was wrapped in a plastic bag — a small VHS-C, the kind of tape that people filmed at home in the early 1980s.

Four hours after being handed the tape, the BBC team in Kukes watched it on a monitor. At first it showed Milaim's family at home. pumping up a rubber dinghy. Then the pictures changed. We watched in silence. Seventeen bodies. All men. I noted that a number had single entry marks from the bullets. All had been shot at close range.

At 5pm on Easter Sunday the mass murder in Kosovo. One man's act of extraordinary bravery had given us much more than a world exclusive. It gave some hope to the hundreds of thousands who had fled their homes that those who committed such acts will not escape

In Milaim's words: "I have done this so that my son and grandson will never forget what the Serbs have done to the Albanian people." The tape that was handed to me has now been given to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The author is a senior producer.

Life with the hard core

Only a few dogged war reporters remain in Belgrade's Hyatt Regency hotel, says Tom Walker

oming from the reception desk of an international hotel, it was a peculiar answer: "I'm not sure, sir, if I'm supposed to tell you whether we're nice to journalists or not," said the Belgrade Hyatt Regency's

front manager.

But these are peculiar times in the Serbian capital, and as the focus of a global press corps that is widely held responsible here for the rain of Nato projectiles, the hotel's management is on a knife edge in its relations with the Serbian and Yugoslav Governments. In terms of media relations, the Hyatt, the finest hotel in what remains of Yugoslavia, did not get off to a good start during the airstrikes. The first night of Nato's phase one is remem-bered by the few journalists who managed to stay inside Yugosla-via as "the night of the long knives": 30 correspondents who went on to the roof of the hotel, under the impression that they could safely watch the bombardment from there, were arrested, and several were escorted to the border the next day. Most correspondents were released after five hours in the company of the New Belgrade constabulary, and the ground rules of reporting what CNN calls "Strike against Yugoslavia" had been laid down.

Back in the relative safety of the Hyatt, plain-clothes police and security guards went round knocking on the doors of selected correspondents advising them that life outside Yugoslavia was a better option. A collective paranoia set in and the hack exodus was on. "There was this image of the knocks at the door coming up, floor by floor," said a French tabloid journalist. "But the fact is that a lot of people abandoned ship without getting the knock. Many who left Yugoslavia were never directly asked to go." The Hyatt is now the province of the hard-core war correspondents.

Up in the regency suite the tales of past derring-do grow more extravagant by the brandy glass as the BBC's John Simpson, CNN's Brent Sadler, ITN's Julian Mannion and Sky's Tim Marshall fight their corners with gusto. There are some quieter, more ephemeral influences, such as Time magazine's Massimo Calabresi, The Guardian's Maggie O'Kane, and engaging maver-icks such as the TV cameraman Nigel Thompson. The few Yugo-slavs around tend not to last long since much of the media fare is unpalatable to them. On the night that Tony Blair came out with his glib comment about "bombing with compassion", it

was surprising that the wide-screen TV in the drawing room bar survived; many locals simply walked out. Correspondents added to the theatre by arguing over visas and fuel rationing. while Balkan smugglers passed in and out peddling their wares. The hotel staff exacted some re-

venge on correspondents by holding rigorous air raid drills. On night two of the strikes journalists were dragged downstairs at least four times; the third time the sirens sounded, staff almost dragged reluctant reporters out of bed. Two floors beneath ground level, kitchen staff were told to put damp towels over their heads because a poisonous gas cloud was coming.

But the Hyatt's staff remain remarkably courteous, and are al-



ways ready to give advice to the not-so-streetwise. "They told me to wear sunglasses and a baseball hat the wrong way round if I went out because I looked too foreign," says a cameraman. "That was nice of them." All the while the deprivations of war nibble at the luxurious veneer; the Italian restaurant is closed, and the hot buffet at the Avala restaurant gets steadily more meagre. Bills must be settled in cash.

There are the bizarre touches to life, such as the piped music that still includes the theme from Top Gun. For correspondents Belgrade is a city in weird suspense, its bridges and ministries awaiting laser-guided Armageddon, while a war and a humanitarian catastrophe, declared out of bounds by the authorities, lie hundreds of miles to the south. To non-journalists it would seem a strange world indeed; in the mornings the only sound echoing down the corridors is that of the BBC World Service - "Music to divorce to," as one correspondent a long way from home put it.

On the road to nowhere

he Serbian border guard stared at our British passports with contempt. "You are killing our children with your bombs," he said as I waited with Dessa Trevisan, the veteran Times correspondent, to cross the border from Hungary into Yugoslavia. My goal: to reach Belgrade to join Tom Walker, the

Times reporter there. We had been waiting more than an hour after being ordered to leave the minibus on which we had travelled from Budapest, watching as it left without us on its way to the Serbian capital.

Now we were alone in a room at the border post in Tompa, policed by combatfarigued men with guns and a plentiful supply of scorn. Dessa, a diminutive 74-year-old from Serbia, was furious after being denied access to the country in which she has lived most of her life (although she has a British passport). She was trying to return as a pri-

vate citizen. I as a journalist. It transpired that our visas were not only worthless, they were a disadvantage. Two days after the Nato air strikes had begun, a coup of sorts had taken place in Belgrade. Now the names of the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, Vuk Draskovic, and the Information Minister, Milan Komnenic, who had authorised our visas, were mud. The military was in charge and had orders to keep us out.

So began a long, frustrating journey to nowhere. For six daysDessa and I tramped up and down the Hungarian borwards to Budapest after being rold on a daily basis to "come back tomorrow The tentacles of war spread

wide in their attempts to stran-

gle the reporting of news. Once we were allowed to travel to a cafe on the Serbian edge of no-man's land. The guard who had blamed us for being responsible for killing Serb children had undergone a character change. After discussing the war with Dessa who reported on the Hungarian uprising and the Prague Spring - he kissed her on both cheeks then invited all of us into a warm room and gave

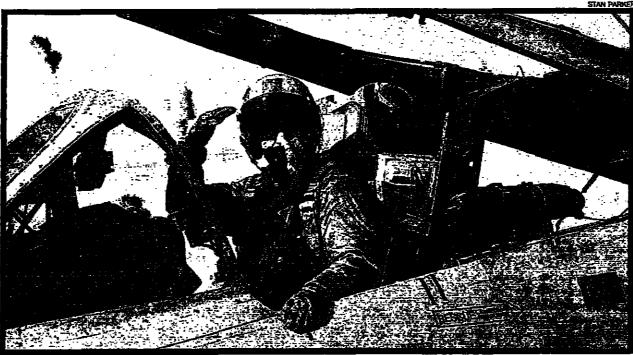
us whisky, slivovitz and beer. Our optimism did not last. The shift changed, our new friend departed for his home on a pig farm, and we were ordered out into the cold once more. An hour later we were given back our passports and told to go back to Hungary.

This whole exercise was not a complete waste of time, however, for we gleaned much in-formation while travelling on the bus plying between the Yugoslav and Hungarian capitals. It enabled us to meet Serbs - travelling home from jobs abroad - who were offering to fight; and women, children and the elderly who were leaving Serbia to avoid the bombs. Many were suspicious or hostile, but changed their minds after discussing their hopes and fears. They all said they thought we should have been allowed in so that we could tell the world the truth.

EVE-ANN PRENTICE

The unasked questions

Philip Hammond says reporting of the war has been strong on rhetoric and short on genuine attempts to get at the truth



"Most of what passes for 'analysis' is actually a discussion of which strategy would work best for Nato"

week's report that last October Clinton turned a deaf ear to intelligence reports that Milosevic might agree to a Nato peacekeeping force in Kosovo. Clinton, battling the Lewinsky scandal, feared committing US troops would damage him too much politically. Yet in Britain, journalists prefer to follow the official line that Yugoslavia's unilateral ceasefire was a "cynical ploy" rather than engage in discussion of the issues involved in reaching a settle-

ment. Neither has there been

any real attempt to explain the background to the conflict. Instead, we are offered historical and religious pseudo-explanations. The Sun - worried, perhaps, that "white-van person" might not be immediately convinced of the necessity to "Clobba Slobba" and "Bomb, Bomb, Bomb" - provided a question-and-answer section on "the conflict that's 600 years old". Headlined "What is the war for?" the article asked: "Where is Kosovo?". "What are the different religious groups?" and "Why do ney hate each other?". A leature in The Sunday Tel-

egraph presented the conflict as a latter-day Crusade by the Orthodox Church, while TV reporters describe it as a "medieval loot and pillage". Meanwhile, Charles Krauthammer, in The Washington Post. argues that. "The reason for the killing in Kosovo is not mindless ethnic hatred but quite rational power politics." Yet it seems that new Labour would prefer us to see it as an epic bat-

tle of Good v Evil, started by a 'serial ethnic cleanser".

Nor has war in Europe prompted any investigative journalism. The moderate ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova was said by Nato to be in hiding before he appeared on TV calling for a halt to the airstrikes. Perhaps British journalists are wary of accepting the Yugoslav version of events, but a French press agency interviewed him. Is there a story to be investigated there, or shall we just stick to

the latest Nato press statement on whether Rugova was black-mailed, drugged or coerced? Similarly, after telling us that the Albanian Rambouillet

negotiator Fehmi Agani had been executed. Nato now says his death is "unconfirmed". Most of what passes for "analysis" is actually a discussion of which strategy would work best for Nato: air-power or ground troups. Far less attention is given to the more fundamental issue of how Nato went to war in the first place and why its aims seem to change on an almost daily basis. First we were told that the Nato bombing campaign was designed to get Milosevic to sign up to the Rambouillet accord. Then we were told that the reason was to avert a humanitarian disaster. Since no international agency declared a "humanitarian crisis" before Nato started bombing, is their mission now simply to clean up their own mess?

Are we really expected to believe that the mass exodus from Kosovo has nothing to do with Nato bombs? What about the tens of thousands of Serbian refugees — are they being "ethnically" cleansed too? How have the Kosovo Liberation Army been transformed from an organisation that the US Government classified as terrorists" to the group on whom the peaceful future of

Kosovo depends? General Wesley Clark has announced his intention of degrading and ultimately destroying Yugoslavia's military capability. The ability of the British media to inform the public of what is happening in Yugoslavia is also in danger of being severely degraded, if not destroyed altogether.

• The author is a senior lecturer in media studies at South

Pirate radio rules again

Deregulation was meant to increase listener choice and make pirates redundant, so why, asks Ben Osborne, are rebel radio stations now flourishing?

n MC blurts over the crash and splutter of music at Xfm, says: "There's a disenfranchised audithe urban jungle rhythms: "Pe-nu-nut. pe-nu-nut, bah-bah-sexy." Turn the dial a millimetre and a rival station thumps out its own varie-ry of drum 'n' bass. The com-bined effect wipes BBC GLR off the radio map. A notch further and Fresh is pumping out a street soul selection, and next to that another pirate is jumping between tested formula." drum 'n' bass and UK garage.

Pirate radio stations are riding the airwaves with all the bravado of 18th-century buccancers. Despire the deregulation of the airwaves in 1990 and the granting of a clutch of licences to specialised stations such as Classic, Jazz, Kiss and Xfm. pirate radio has continued to proliferate and attract a considerable audience. This shouldn't be happening. Deregulation should have increased diversity and listener choice and made pirate redundant.

At the heart of the debate about pirate radio — which targets a small but dedicated audience is the issue of listener choice, or lack of it. While the industry complains that pirates interfere with its listeners and marketplace, pirate broadcasters (euphemistically termed "radio enthusiasts") point to a business culture in commercial radio that forces stations to broadcast to the lowest common denominator. The pirates argue that deregulation has increased the number of stations owned by a few big companies that play the same material.

It's a point that legitimate broadcasters can appreciate. 'Things are so regimented and play-list driven in radio these days," says Gary Crowley, a veteran radio DJ. "Pirate radio is fans playing music which isn't being catered for anywhere else -- otherwise they wouldn't bother climbing up towers to stick up aerials."

Fraser Lewery, one-time radio enthusiast and former head of

ence that needs something that only pirates provide. Regular radio is stagnating because people aren't willing to be brave; they just stick to what they know. Until the airwaves are liberalised like they are in New Zealand, all we're going to get is a limited amount of commercial companies sticking to a tried and

Recent attempts to break the industry mould seem to support this point. Radio stations such as Xim and Kiss in London and Crash in Liverpool all made bold attempts to extend listener choice. All have now been turned into more mainstream stations.

onvention has it that these stations had to change because they were failing to attract an audience but this argument is not borne out by listener figures. Kiss consistently reaches a 10 per cent market share but is now being revamped under the direction of its parent company, Emap, to make

it more mainstream. Specialist shows have been moved to "graveyard" slots, play-lists have been introduced and some of the original DJs, including Cold Cut. Steve Jackson and Giles Peterson, have departed. By the time Capital bought 90.1 per cent of the independent Xfm, the station (with 3.3 per cent of market share) was reaching more than half of its target listenership, which could explain why Capital was willing to pay £15 mil-

lion for a large slice of the station. The result of the watering-down of Xfm has been a loss of listeners. The most recent Rajar figures show Xfm's weekly audience dropping from a pre-take-over high of 329,000 to 244,000.

St John da Silva, a DJ for mid-Nineties pirate station Girls FM. says there is a clear connection between Kiss becoming more mainstream and the proliferation of pirate stations.

"There are more than 20 underground garage stations in London alone," he says. "There's a gap in the market because of what's happened to Kiss. A lot of the specialist shows are missing. That's where the pirates step in. The pirates wouldn't keep going if there wasn't a demand for it."

Both Xfm and Kiss started as pirate operations. "Because pirates are not commercial, they can be a lot braver, and new genres of music tend to get represented on pirate radio before commercial stations," says Lewery. "The people who are most knowledgeable about new genres of music are DJs on pirate stations. If you look at the staffing of pirate in the Eighties, the number who are now on Radio I is phenomenal."

It costs £10,600 just to apply for a Greater London FM licence from the Radio Authority and a new station can expect to make at least three bids before succeeding. Once a licence has been obtained a Greater London FM station has to pay a further fee of between £65,000 and £73,000 a year. A transmitter for a pirate station costs just £400.

New Zealand, which deregulated its airwaves in the late Eighties, opted for a more accessible arrangement by making it much cheaper and easier to get a licence. It now has four times as many stations as the UK, serving a population of just 2.5 million.

The advent of digital radio in the UK means that there is potential for more stations and greater choice. "The Radio Authority needs to look carefully at how they are going to regulate digi-tal," says Lewery.
"We don't need another 40 ver-

sions of Emap-formatted radio. Part of the authority's role is to safeguard the future of broadcasting. Handing over licences to big. successful radio companies is the wrong way to go about it."



DJ Jackson broadcasts from his bedroom in Spike Lee's Do The Right Thing.

TV boss seeks to lift ban The top executives of Med TV, the satellite channel broadcasting millions of Kurden

ings to the Independent Television Commission about their future behaviour.

The promises will form part of a last minute appeal to the commission by the Kurds to try to win back their broadcast ing lightness. The ITC suppended Med Type

ing licence. The ITC suspended Med TV's licence on March 22 for repeated breaches of broadcasting rules and said it had 21 days to make representations on why the ban should not become permanent.

The broadcasts in question carried material likely to encourage or incite crime and disorder. The ITC was concerned that Kurdish extremists had been advocating attacks on tourists in Turkey.

In another broadcast the presenter sat immobile while, off camera, a member of the military wing of the Kurdish Workers Party read out a statement in which he said Kurds should stop burning themselves (there have been a number of selfimmolations) and burn Turks instead.

The members of the commission will this morning hear representations from Med TV, which is estimated to have up to

16 million viewers. Haikmet Tabak, the managing director, said yesterday that he would give the ITC detailed promises about future behaviour. "We know we have been a headache to the ITC in the past? he acknowledged. The ITC issued formal warnings and fined Med TV E90,000 before suspending its licence. The commission has even

staged internal seminars for senior Med

TV executives on the rules and regula-tions of British broadcasting legislation. The ITC has the power of life or death over Med TV because its signal goes up to the Eutelsat satellite from the UK, after the programmes are put together in Brus-sels. The Med TV executive will tell the ITC that in future greater emphasis will be put on children's programmes, entertainment and cultural and music programmes. "I am confident we will be able to continue broadcasting." Mr Tabak

said. The ITC will still take a considerable

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Changing the face of race reporting

Margaret Michie spent 15 years trying to ensure fair coverage of race issues. At last she sees signs of success, she tells Henry Bonsu

ast night ITV launched its flagship cur-rent affairs proprogramme with what may go down as one of the scoops of the decade: Martin Bashir grilling the five men suspected of Britain's most notorious race murder.

That its producer, Granada. should choose this story to announce the arrival of Tonight shows how far the issue of race has become mainstream.

In the week of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report, pended 1,672 column inches on Sir William Macpherson Cluny's findings, and on

British society Since then tabloids and broadsheets have kept the momenturn going, reporting on institutionalised racism in the police, schools and govern-

ment departments. For Margaret Michie, 47. ho has spent 15 years of her career trying to put a positive spin on race relations, the change in the media's willingness to report such stories has been seismic. Michie has just left her job as a senior press officer at the Commission for Racial Equality to join the Portman Group, where she will be promoting the healthy con-

sumption of alcohol. When she joined the CRE in 1984 "passionate about creating a more just society, she found that persuading newspapers to be positive about race was an uphill struggle. Michie recalls being taken aback by the reporting of Britain's inner city riots of 1981 and 1985. What these areas had in common were social denrivation, and tensions between the police and the local black community, but this was overlooked. The tenor of the coverage was, at one end, rightly horrified by the violent civil disorder, but on the other the press hadn't tried to understand why the riots had occurred," she says.

The media were not interested in the recommendations of the subsequent Scarman report or the later Swann report on the education of black children. "Most papers were pre-

occupied with reporting the violence black rioters against the police. Some of the sensational language was used to depict all ethnic minori-

Rioting on the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham in 1985, and the murder of PC Keith Blakelock, produced the headline "Kill! Kill! Kill!" in the Daily Express of October 8. "Hacked to Death by Hy-Star. Newspapers also ran stories linking black communities with crime in general. Two that stand out in the CRE library are the Daily Mail's "Black Crime: The Alarming Figures", from May 1982, and The Sun's "Black Muggers blamed by Yard". "Those of us in the media office were fielding calls from the public say-

their attitude for the worse." The number of race-related complaints to the Press Council jumped from 38 in 1984 to 82 in 1985 and averaged around 80 per year for the rest of the decade. The council rebuked the "intemperate" and

ing that they were outraged.

People were worried that these

kinds of stories would not just

inform the public, but change



Margaret Michie, former senior press officer at the CRE, feels that more journalists are reporting positively on race issues

Scarman warned editors to use responsibly the power they had to influence attitudes.

Michie, a former teacher, believed that journalists could be educated out of a tendency to use inflammatory language if they could be made to understand the wider social context of race-related stories. But it wouldn't be easy. The 1980s were the years of what she calls "a creeping style of antianti-racism", which led to any pro-black, ie affirmative. ac-

tion being attacked. She also accuses newspapers of being reluctant to confirm the "racial" nature of attacks on ethnic minorities. and what the police were doing about them. For Michie and her colleagues, things be-

"sensationalised" language of gan to significantly change at 1997 to a five-year CRE action to complain, attracted widethe NUJ and the Press Council reviewed their codes of practice. As a result editors and journalists were instructed not to include gratuitous mention of a person's ethnic origin.

> hus, the move from the Thatcher to the Major years were characterised by a different climate in race reporting. Regular briefings with selected journalists were beginning to pay off.

In 1991 the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday high-lighted the cases of black soldiers Stephen Anderson and Anthony Evans, who suffered racism in the Army. The publicity helped to persuade the Armed Forces to sign up in

Nothing prepared Michie for the Mail's decision two years ago to name five white youths as the killers of Stephen Lawrence, making it a story that merited the Prime Minister's attention. "What the Mail did was lead the others into an area they hadn't been in before. It's one thing to put five faces on the cover, another to call for a public inquiry and another to cover it regularly, then look at its find-

ings." she says. This new climate has seen the CRE take some bold decisions, on occasion becoming the story itself. Last year its shock poster campaign depicting black men as muggers, rapists and orang-utans, then criticising the public for failing

Michie says the CRE thought hard about the decision, and she makes no apolo-

It was a sign of the CRE's confidence that in 1992 it inaugurated the forthcomig annual Race in the Media Awards (RIMA), of which Michie has taken charge. Last year's competition had twice as many categories as the first, attracting entries from radio and TV, and many national newspapers. Michie says: When we started in 1992 the problem was to find a journalist who had written about race in an informed manner. This year the difficulty will be to

make awards because so

many have written and done

so much about race relations."

Two cheers for digital

t last it can be said officially that digital television has got off to a respectable start. The announcement yesterday of ONdigital's first subscriber figures since the digital terrestrial channel came on air last November show a creditable performance, Naturally, journalists prodded the 110,000 total to see if there were hidden extras. But ONdigital was emphatic that the figure represented paying subscribers only, or paying subscribers plus those who had already signed their contracts and would join within days.

What's more, the number of subscribers has been accelerating month-on-month and in March 30,000 households signed up

to receive more than 30 channels through conventional television aerials. ONdigital could not resist using a little sophistry claim that it is growing faster than SkyDigit-al. Of the

350,000 SkyDigital subscribers signed up in

ONdigital's months, only 120,000 were new customers, as opposed to those trading up from old analogue systems. Since ONdigital is for now available in only 70 per cent of the country, it could just claim that its 110,000 represented faster growth than Sky's 120,000 new subscribers.

The propaganda wars will continue to be fun, but it is significant that there are possibly 600,000 homes with digital, multichannel television. — a figure that is likely to rise to 1.5 million by

The arrival in June of £500 Bush television sets with embedded subscription systems, avoiding the need for separate black boxes, should provide a further boost, as will the pay-perview film digital terrestrial service planned by SDL lat-

er this year. It appears, on the admittedly slim evidence of the first real numbers, that a significant slice of Middle Eng-land would like more television, but not too much, and possibly not via a satellite dish. This suggests that there will be room for three competing systems and viewers can choose the package that suits them best.

News of the spread of digital terrestrial came at almost exactly the same time yesterday as Chris Smith, the Culture. Media and Sports Secretary, was launching a report examining the obstacles preventing Britain exporting more television pro-

Ironically, the small surplus the UK once had in its television trade with the rest of the world has been tipped into deficit by the large flow of American imports needed to service our expanding cable and satellite sector.

The report highlights the old split between television as a commercial industry and a regulated, cultural product. Some of its recommendations are plainly sen-

sible, such as looking at incentives, including tax breaks, to encourage broadcasters and others to invest in original programme production. Likewise. thing could be

done about the length of programmes which do not fit the schedules of

when it is suggested that domestic regulation may be hindering exports. If the suggestion is that regulators are insisting that British broadcasters make programmes of a particular quality for the British audi-ence and that these are not all equally popular abroad. then so be it.

M6 Television in France. for instance, rejected Prime Suspect. Granado a awardwinning police series, because it was so realistic. ing seriously suggested that such a programme should not be made - or at kast not in that way?

Italy's Canale 5 says "television should be about entertainment and escapism", while other potential purchasers say our programmes are "100 British". A partial solution is already here. While more strenuous efforts are made to sell uncompromisingly British programmes abroad, there is no reason why British broadcasters should not make more pro-

grammes aimed specifically at world markets. It's what

Pearson Television has been

doing for years.

BT gets in touch with E.T.

IN ADVERTISING, the most obvious ideas are often the best. The genius lies in spotting the obvious. So the understandable reaction to news that Steven Spielberg's E.T. character will be the new face of BT's advertising is why did no one think of that before?

One reason is that BT has enjoyed huge success with its call-stimulation campaigns featuring Buzby, the animated bird; Maureen Lipman as Beattie; and, more recently. Bob Hoskins. Hugh Laurie and other celebrities reminding us that "it's good to talk".

But "it's good to talk" had run its

course. BT needed a rethink and opted to review its entire advertising arrangements, separating out tasks such as advertising to young people and business-to-business advertising and giving them to new agencies.

Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, the agency behind "it's good to talk", managed to hold on to the lion's share of the business, however. And the idea that won the February pitch for the £60 million billing account focused on E.T. and the new slogan, "stay in

No, it's not "phone home", thankfully. That would have led to endless mickey-taking and might have been self-defeating. Instead, BT garners the benefits of the character's famous line without having to resort to such

In any case, Universal Studios and Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. with which AMV had to negotiate. would not have allowed E.T.'s image to be used if the character were actually to sell the product in the ads. Spielberg is supposed to be seeing the finished commercials (directed by Paul Weiland of City Slickers 2 and Walker's Crisps fame) this week to check that they do not "compromise the character's integrity".

The ads will be launched this weekend with a series of "teasers" in which we see E.T. circling Earth, astonished

STARTING

by some of the changes in evidence since he was last here in 1982.

ond commercial in which E.T. returns to Earth will follow next month. Weiland has created new footage to the magnificent soundtrack, amid nearridiculous secrecy. But the gist of it is that E.T. is amazed by the changes in communications technology, and is on a mission to help people to take

advantage of them - including the Internet, data transfer and multimedia. E.T.'s suitability as a "celebrity endorser" lies not just in the "phone home" line but in his intuitive ability



in the original film to understand what Elliott and his sister are thinking. This is what the movie style central ad will pick up on.

But isn't E.T. rather an Eighties icon? If the thought occurs to us, it certainly will have occurred to the agency and to BT. But after exhaustive research, both concluded that the appeal of E.T. is ageless. The film may be 17 years old but

even consumers too young to have seen it originally are familiar with key moments.

The ads will not be cheap - but then Maureen Lipman, Bob Hoskins



E.T. moves to BT: why did nobody think of such a good idea before?

and Hugh Laurie do not come cheap either. And BT will get its money's worth from the campaign: television. posters, press ads, direct mail and educational materials will all feature the image of the finger and the "stay in touch" line. Perhaps it will be exported overseas, too. One thing is for sure: given the £50 million budget. we will all become maddeningly familiar with the idea.

FOR clients with shallower pockets than BT, the 60-second commercial has a limited lifespan and, thereafter. cheaper ten-second cutdowns are used in an attempt to eke out the budget - often to confusing effect.

An example of how this can backfire is the current NSPCC campaign. The idea of familiar icons, from teddy bears and Action Men to the Spice Girls and Alan Shearer, covering their eyes against a background of the malevolent things that adults say to children is one of the most powerful charity campaigns around - the more so for not showing the actual cruelty or the victims.

However, in the cut-down, all we are left with is the desperate mother screaming threats at her distressed child. "If you don't shut up. I'll . . . This is a scenario familiar to almost every parent of a young child at some stage in the average week. And the threat is almost always an empty one.

To tar all parents with the opprobrium deserved by, for example, the man in the longer ad who climbs into bed urging "this will just be our little secret . . . * seems offensive.

Overall, this is a disturbing and moving campaign. It seems a shame to alienate people who would be well disposed to its message just because of a change of context brought about by financial restraints.

• Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.



increase life energy through design. Enhance your home or office

Loday. The Times offers readers a FREE online Feng Shui consultation to give a room in your home a new look. You will be given a complete Feng Shui report helping you to make the best use of your space to improve relationships, health, finances, family and career. If you re-arrange your environment according to Feng Shui principles, fans of Feng Shui claim, your life is enhanced. The offer applies to a dining room, study or bathroom.

Times readers can also have interior design advice online for other rooms in their home for £5.50 per room, half the usual price of £11. When you go online you will be asked to use a compass to check

THE 建安全TIMES

REFORUNE

FENG SHUL

the direction and position of the door an online Feng Shui expert for

and create the layout of your room. Describe what you can see out of each window and submit the room to analysis. The analysis will highlight the negative and positive areas of your room and make recommendations for you to put your furniture and fittings

in places where they will not create

negative influences.

HOW TO APPLY

Collect four of the seven tokens oublished in The Times this week. On each token there is a two-letter code. You need four, two-letter codes to access the free consultation on the Feng Shui watsite:

ww.online-fengshui.com

When you have any four of the seven sets of two-letter codes, key them into your computer when asked and follow the instructions carefully. You will need a web browser Netscape 3 or above, Explorer 3 or above, or their equivalent. Full instructions are on the site. If you have difficulty downloading, please check you are following the instructions. If you are at work, make sure there is no firewall Try again or contact your internet service provider.

Terms and Conditions: Only one free room consultation per household. Consultations for other rooms are available at half price, just £5.50 per room, instructions for how to do this will be on the website. Offer closes at midnight Wednesday April 28, 1999.

A memoir from Fleet Street: Which Editor was caught in flagrante in his office with a secretary? --- the missing Editor of a leading Sunday on the night of the Marchioness disaster?

Council liability for acts of travellers

Lippiatt and Another v South Gloucestershire Council

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice folummery and Sir Christooner Staughton

Judgmen: March 3!] An occupier of land might be held liable for a nuisance where that pook the form of repeated acts on the plaintiffs' land committed by persons who were, to the occupier's knowledge based on his land.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeul of the plaintiffs. Peter Richard Eiopian and Richard Ferhy, against the judgment of Judge Works, QC, stiting as a judge of the High Court in the Bristol District Registry on June 1, 1998, when he is and in (avour of South Gloucesre-share Council, successor authori-12 to At on County Council, and dis-missed the plaintiffs' statement of Jaim for, inter alsa, damages peartist the council for alleged nuisames caused to the plaintiffs' farm and be recellers occurving the councils neighbouring land, on the basis that the claim had no reasonable prospects of success.

The Court of Appeal remitted the case to Bristol District Registry

The phintiffs, tenant farmers of about 480 acres from the Duke of Bequier, of fand on either side of the 440 road between Bath and strong, claimed, inter alia, that a the castern side of the road which war owned by the council was occupied by inwellers in considerable numbers in caravans from Octoher 1991 until their eviction on the council's application by court order in June 1994, that the travellers frequently trespassed on the plaintiffs land, obstructed access to their adjacent field, dumped rubhish and left excrement on it, tethered goats, ponies and horses, stole umber, gates and fences, damaged the stone wall at its edge, permitted their dogs to chase the plaintifis'

sheep and acted belligerently towards the plaintiffs, their families, employees and neighbours and assaulted them, and that such acts damaged and diminished crops and rendered them unfit for sale or

Mr Barry Payton and Mr Philip Norman for the plaintiffs; Mr W. David Spens for the council.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the judge accepted the coun-cil's submission that the claim had no prospect of success as a matter of law because of Hussain v Lancaster City Council (The Times May 20. 1998; (1998) 96 LGR 063), and he struck out the plaintiffs' claim as disclusing no cause of action.

His Lordship said that the claim was of activities by travellers which took place off the council's land and in all respects save one on the land of the plaintiffs them-

Mr Spens accepted that the one exception, the allegation that the travellers barred entry to the plainriffs' land, could give rise to liabili-n in nuisance because, if it occurred, there was a direct interference with the plaintiffs' use and en-

He submitted that no actionable nuisance was alleged because the activities relied on were those of independent third parties, and they took place outside the council's

Mr Payton submitted that such a contention had been rejected in Attorney-General v Corke (1933) Ch 89 and was not supported by Hussain.

In his Lordship's view, Mr Payton was entitled to submit that the point raised by the council was decided in Corke against the defendant in an action for nuisance, but equally, Mr Spens was right to say that the claim was brought in that case in respect of a public nui-

However, Smith v Scott ([1973] Ch 314) provided clear authority that Corke was correctly decided and, more generally, that there was no rule of law which prevented the owner or occupier of land from being held liable for the tort of nuisance by reason of the activities of his licensees which took place off his land.

Further support was provided by Thompson-Schwah v Costaki (1956) I WLR 335). In his Lordship's view, the facts alleged in Hussain were materially

different from those in the present

The disturbance there complained of was a public nuisance for which the individual perpetrators could be held liable, and they were identified as individuals who lived in council property; but their

linked to, nor did it emanate from. homes where they lived.

The allegation in the present case was that the travellers were allowed to congregate on the council's land and that they used it as a base for the unlawful activities of which the plaintiffs complained. to the tenant.

It was at least arguable that that could give rise to liability in nuisance, and so the claim should not be struck out. It seemed to his Lordship that upon proof of the alleged facts, and

subject to any defences, such liability could be established The council's objection that the claim could not succeed as a matter of law had to be rejected.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY. agreeing, added that the judge did not appreciate the scope of the plaintiffs pleaded case or the reach of the law of nuisance.

That was not altogether surprising as the statement of claim was not as clearly drafted as it might have been, and his attention was not drawn to cases from which it appeared that an occupier of land ight be held liable in nuisance in exceptional circumstances.

Those circumstances were that the plaintiffs' use and enjoyment of rights in his land was interfered with by the continuing pres-ence on the defendant's land of persons whose actual or apprehended activities included, to the knowledge of the defendant, harmful acts repeatedly committed by them on the plaintiffs' land from their base on land occupied by the defendant. Scott and Thompson-Schwab were

The latter case was concerned with a landlord. He was held not to be liable in nuisance for the activities of his tenant which did not involve use of the land leased by him

There was nothing in that case which precluded a court from holding that an occupier of land might be held liable for a nuisance which consisted of a continuing state of affairs existing on his land where that nuisance manifested itself in form of repeated acts on the plaintiff's land, and those acts were, to the knowledge of the occupier, committed by persons based on his land and they interfered with the plaintiff's use and enjoy-

ment of his land. It was reasonably arguable that the continuing presence of the travellers on the council's land constituted a nuisance to the plaintiffs' use and enjoyment of their rights in their land, even though the travellers' activities involved using the council's land as a launching pad for repeated acts of trespass on the

In the circumstances the case was reasonably arguable in law and on the state of the pleadings. and the judge should not have

Sir Christopher Staughton gave a judgment agreeing that the ap-peal should be allowed. Solicitors: Moger & Sparrow,

Bath: Mr Eric J. Andrews. Thorn-

Application was not a step in the proceedings

Patel v Patel

Before Lord Woolf Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Ward

Judgment March 24 A defendant who applied for a default judgment to be set aside and for leave to defend and counterclaim had not taken any step in the proceedings to answer the substantive claim so as 10 prevent him being granted a stay of the action in layour of arbitration pursuant to section 9 of the Arbitration Act

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing the appeal of the defendant.
Dilesh R. Pauel, against the dismissal by Judge Wilcox, sitting on official referee's business on October 16, 1998, of his summons to stay the action of the plaintiff, Jiten dra Rhailaibhaí Patel, for breach of a building contract in favour of arbitration pursuant to section 9 of the 1996 Act.

Section 9 of the 1996 Act pro vides: "(3) An application | for a stay| may not be made by a person after he has taken any step in those proceedings to answer the substantive claim."

Mr Mark Raeside for the defendant: Mr Adam Chambers for the

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the point raised on the appeal had regularly given rise to problems under the Arbitraguage of section 9(3) of the 1996 Act was different from that in section 4(1) of the 1950 Act.

The issue was whether the application for a stay of the plaintiff's ac-tion had been made by the defend-ant before or after he had taken any step in those proceedings to an-The plaintiff had issued a writ

endorsed with a statement of claim

seeking damages from the defendant for breach of a building con-

The defendant had acknowledged service and endorsed the acknowledgement with a statement of intention to defend the action. Section 9(3) required the defendant to take that step before applying to

stay an action.

The plaintiff had then issued a default judgment, there having

heen no defence served. The defendant had issued a summons seeking an order (i) that the default judgment be set aside and that he be given leave to defend and counterclaim and (ii) that consequential directions be given.

The judge had taken the view that because of the terms of the summons, and, in particular, because the defendant had asked to be given leave to defend the action counterclaim, the defendant had taken a step in the proceedings to answer the substantive claim.

The question was whether the

judge had been right to come to that conclusion. The defendant had drawn attenrion to the fact that the long title of the 1996 Act indicated that it was an Act to restate and improve the

law of arbitration; it was not merely a consolidating Act.

His Lordship accepted that the 1996 Act was meant to make the law of arbitration clearer and less technical than it had been hitherto. The underlying spirit of the Act was very much in accord with the new Civil Procedure Rules which

were to apply in the civil courts from April 20, 1999. Therefore, the starting point should be to approach the lan-guage of section 9(3) by applying its actual words and asking whether the defendant had taken any step to answer the substantive claim. Everything turned on the language of the summons.

The same of the sa The fact that the defendant had applied to set aside the default judg. ment could not be of any assistance to the plaintiff.

Unless such an application had been made there would have been nothing to stay. Therefore, if the defendant had merely asked for the default judgment to be set aside he would undoubtedly have been entiried to a stay.

But the defendant had asked for leave to defend the action and counterelaim. The plaintiff had said that that was a clear indication that he was going to defend the action and counterclaim. His Lordship recognised the

force of that submission. However, the fact was that the defendant did not need leave to defend and counterclaim, he was entitled to do so once the default judgment had been set aside, that was in fact onose to the relief that he needed. He had also asked for conse-

quential directions but that was ambivalent. One direction could have been for a stay. There was no sign of election in that request.

Therefore the appeal turned on whether, by asking for something giose to the relief that he preded the defendant was to be deprived of his right under the Act to a stay.

It seemed to his Lordship that if the mere inclusion of something ofose in a summons of this sort deprived the defendant of his right under the Act to a stay that would be inconsistent with the spirit of

His Lordship would allow the appeal and grant the delendant a stay of the action.

Lord Justice Otton gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: Manis. Thornton Heath: Myers Ebner & Deaner

Oral agreement for sub-tenancy valid as assignment

remainder of the grantor's term.

Pare (Battersea) Lid (in administrative receivership) and Another v Hutchinson Basine Mr Justice Moore-Bick

Judg ness March [8] By action 53(l)(a) of the Law of Property Act 1925 the disposal of an into a conford by operation of law need for be in viriting. Accordingly a valid oral agreement for the creanon of a sub-tenancy for a period not less than the remaining term of the lease, under which the grantor nimself held, took effect as an assignment of the remainder of the

Mr Justice Moore-Bick, sitting is an additional indge of the Chanindement handed down in chamber, allowing the appeal of the picarilla, Pare Bottersea Ltd and Mesour vood Holdings Ltd. both in émio orato e receivership, from the direct of by Master Moneas-ter or November 17, 1998 of their apolication for summary judgment to their claim for possession subject to the determination of the nobologic preliminary issues of ing. in their favour, namely:

(a) whether a tenancy pleaded by the defendant. Mr Tom Hurchinson, in way of defence was a tenancy for a term corrain expiring onor after March 3L 1998; and if so (b) whether that tenancy operated as an assignment of Monarun Lid's lease in so far as it related to premises comprised in the tenan-

plaintiffs: Mr Thomas Jefferies for the defendant.

By an oral agreement made on December 8, 1997 Monarum sub-

property. The plaintiffs discovered that Mr Hutchison was in occupation of part of the land.

Mr Timothy Dutton for the

MR JUSTICE MOORE-BICK said that on December 4, 1997 the plaintiffs granted a lease over part of some land situated at Battersea. London, to Monarun Ltd for a fixed term expiring on March 31. 1998. Steps were taken to exclude that lease from the operation of sections 24 to 28 of the Landlord and

let part of that land to the defendani at a rent of £300 a month. The defendant entered into occupation When Monarun's lease expired

Furthermore, Mr Hutchison claimed that he was entitled to re-

Act 1954.

While a sub-tenancy in favour of Mr Hutchinson, even if granted in breach of the terms of the headlease, was capable of falling within the terms of the 1954 Act (see: D'Silva v Lister House Devel pment Ltd ([1971] 1 Ch 17)). Mr Dutton submitted that the grant of a sub-lease for a period not less than the remaining term of the lease under which the grantor himsaif held took effect not as a sub-

KB 306, 310) applied by Lord Jus-Tenant Act 1954. tice Slade in Trustees of Henry Smith's Charity v Willson (1983) I QB 316) and by Lord Justice Raiph Gibson in *Grasvenor Estate Bel*gravia v Cochran ([1992] EGLR 83, \$4), Lord Greene, Master of the Rolls, said: Where a lessee, by a document

by effluxion of time the plaintiffs in the form of a sub-lease, divests sought to take possession of the himself of everything that he has got (which he must necessarily do if he is transferring to his so-called sub-lessee an estate as great as, or purporting to be greater than, his own) he from that moment on is a main in occupation because Monstranger to the land, in the sense that the relationship of landlord arun had granted him a monthly

periodic tenancy which was projectand tenant cannot exist any longer ed under the Landlord and Tenant between him and the so-called sub-

> If those authorities covered the present case, there could be no answer to the plaintiffs' claim for possession of the property, because by virtue of the assignment Mr Hutch-inson received only an unprotected lease: see St Giles Hotel Ltd v Mi-croworld Technology Ltd (1997) 2 EGLR 105). Mr Jefferies sought to distin-

guish those cases on the basis that a valid oral agreement for a sub-tenancy extending for the whole of the remainder of the term could lease but as an assignment of the In Milmo v Carreras (1946) 1 not operate as an assignment of the grantor's term because it was not ssible to assign a term other than by a written instrument.

Accordingly such an agreement was of no effect in law, and Mr Hutchinson became a monthly periodic tenant by virtue of entering into possession and making pay-

A person seeking to assign a lease must generally either execute an assignment in the form of a deed, in which case the instrument will be capable of transferring a legal estate by operation of section 52 of the 1925 Act, or he must execute a written instrument which can be construed as an enforceable con-

tract to assign the lease which satisfies the requirements of section 53, and now also section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provi-

Mr Dutton submitted that the grant of an oral tenancy for a peri-od which exceeded the remainder of the grantor's term could assign a parol lease as an assignment by operation of law, an exception to the requirement that such interests might only be disposed of in writing found within section 53(1)(a) it-

In Milmo v Carreras it was only the operation of the rule of law which the court recognised and ap-plied which enabled the conveyance represented by the parol ten-ancy agreement to take effect within the present case Monarun

did not set out to assign its term to Mr Hutchinson. The agreement was incapable of creating an effective sub-tenancy because Monarun had no reversion, and there was no privity of estate between them. If the agreement had any effect at all it could only be as an assign-

ment of Monarun's term, but that could only occur by operation of law, that is, the rule in Milmo v Section 53(1)(a) was therefore ant to cover the position where an oral transaction which would otherwise he effective in accordance with its terms took effect by operation of

in a manner different from that contemplated by the parties. it was not anomalous for the assignment of a lease, which would ordinarily require writing, could be effected orally in that way as an assignment by operation of law in that manner could only occur in limited circumstances. It was no more anomalous than the fact that an agreement for a short lease could also be made orally.

Solicitors: Cameron McKenna: Payne Hicks Beach.

Great caution required over foreign jurisdiction cases

Smyth v Behbehani and Others

Refore Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Sed-

[Judgment March II]

In a dispute where legal proceedings were in progress in a foreign country, the English court had to proceed with great caution before granting relief to one of the parties in the form of a negative declaration of non-liability. The court had to ensure that a claimant was not seeking to gain procedural advantage of an illegitimate nature.

But the English court could make such a declaration in circum-

stances where it was satisfied that to do so would be of procedural advantage both to the claimant and to the interests of justice. The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an interlocutory appeal by the first defendant, Abdul Majeed Saeed Behbehani, from the refusal

by Mr lan Hunter, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Divi sion on May 22, 1998, of a stay of an action brought in England by the plaintiff, Naz Smyth, against Mr Behbehani. Maha Abdul Majeed Behbehani and Philip Ross &

Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC and Miss Monica Carss-Frisk for the first defendant: Mr Roger Ellis. QC and Mr Robert Lamb for the

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the plaintiff was a British citizen. The first defendant was a Ku-

waiti national resident in Kuwait. In 1996 he issued proceedings in Sharjah asserting rights to repay-ment of three transfers of money from the plaintiff. In April 1998 the court in Sharjah held that it had jurisdiction to hear part only of that

The plaintiff, who challenged the jurisdiction of the Sharjah court, issued her writ claiming a negative declaration to the effect that she was not liable to repay any of the sums transferred.

The judge found that there was an important procedural advantage to the plaintiff in having all the transfers examined by a single court and that the most appropriare forum for that was the English court even though proceedings con-tinued in Sharjah in relation to one of the transfers.

After referring to Saipem SpA v Dredging VO2 BV (The Volvox Hol-landia (1988) 2 Lloyd's Rep 361). Camilla Cotton Oil Co v Granadex SA (1976) 2 Lloyd's Rep 10) and First National Bank of Boston v Union Bank of Switzerland (1990) I Lloyd's Rep 32), the judge remind-ed himself that the English courts

proceeded with great caution where the principal or only claim was for a negative declaration because, he said, claims were often brought to gain procedural advan-tage of an illegitimate nature.

But, he added, there were cases where a claim for a negative declaration made very good sense and that was the case here.

Not only was the judge entitled to take the view that there was an mportant procedural advantage to the plaintiff in the course he proposed, there was also an important advantage to the interests of jus-

It was in the interests of justice that proceedings in relation to comparable transactions should all be iried at one and the same time.

Bearing in mind the actual cirto make his decision, namely that this was not an application to strike out, but an application for a stay on the ground of forum non conveniens, the judge was entitled to hold that the claim for a negative declaration did not disentitle the plaintiff from pursuing her proceedings in this country.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Sedley gave concurring judg-

ments. Solicitors: Kingsley Napley: Soo-



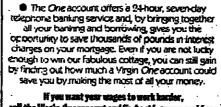
• Today Tre Times, in association with the Virgin One account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station, Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will

provide the lucky winner with the perfect



place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11. HOW TO ENTER Collect 19 Times tokens and two tokens from The Sunday Times and attach them to an entry form which appears again on Tuesday. Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token is published every Friday, sea below. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions will appear again tomorrow.







CHANGING TIMES

Adverse inference from refusal

F v Child Support Agency Before Mr Justice Scott Baker Judgment March 251

An adverse inference drawn from a refusal to provide a blood sample in accordance with a court order could be used to rebut a presump-

tion of legitimacy.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by F against the decision of the Birmingham Family Proceedings Court on April 27. 1998 to allow an application by the Child Support Agency for a declaration of parentage under section 27 of the Child Support Act 1991 that F was the father of a child. B.

born to P. Miss Rosalind Bush for F; the agency did not appear and was not

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that F had unprotected sexual relations with P when P was married to another man and P later

gave birth to a child. B. The court admitted under the Children (Admissibility of Hearsay Evidence) Order (SI 1993 No 621) hearsay evidence from P as to the contents of a report of a DNA test made three years previously which she said had excluded her husband from being the father of

F refused to comply with the directions of the court to provide a test blood sample. His Lordship aid that F gave no justifiable expla-nation for refusing to provide a sample and the court was entitled to draw adverse inferences against

It was plain that even where the

presumption of legitimacy existed,

putative father declined to give plood at his peril when ordered to do so by the court. The justices were entitled to find that the presumption of legitimacy of B arising from P's marriage was rebutted by her hearsay evidence as to the DNA test and the adverse inference drawn from F's refusal to

provide a sample, and accordingly that F was the father of B. Solicitors: Fentmans, Solibuli



EDUCATION

Real-life lesson in drugs

Teenagers are tuning into a BBC docusoap. Hannah Betts reports

he BBC's latest docu-soap, Jailbirds — set in New Hall Prison, Wakefield, West Yorkshire - has come as a gift for teachers who want to incorporate real-life stories into their school's drug- prevention programmes. Melissa Meredith, 18, who is a former heroin addict and one of the series participants, has turned out to be a powerful negative rale model.

When the programme showed her arrival in prison. it became clear that her morning heroin hit was not the only reason she greeted her sur-roundings with incomprehension: Melissa is from what is termed "a good home" and her parents believe that peer pressure led to her addiction. Her transition, from an ambitious girl who had been expected to do well in nine GCSEs at her local secondary school to a prisoner, took only 12 months. Drug addiction changed Melissa into a jailbird, something that neither her parents nor she had expected.

Chris Terrill, the creator of Jailbirds, aims to make socially responsive programmes, but he fell on this particular by-product of the series almost by accident, during a talk about his career to sixth-formers at Brighton College, an independent school.

"As soon as I began showing Jailbirds, the group was on the edge of its seat." Mr Terrill explains. "I spent five years as a teacher, so I'm very aware of young people's huge hunger for facts at that age."

The experience at Brighton is just the tip of the iceberg. In Jailbirds' first week on air, the the programme's helpline received 150 calls. After Melissa's story was broadcast, 4,000 people, mostly young, phoned

about drugs. tament to the docusoap aesthet-

same level as the boys.

good at understanding other people's

As the idea of gender differences in men-

tal capacities has begun to lose credibility.

researchers have focused on the different

ways in which the sexes learn. Research

can be contradictory, but an analysis of 22 studies around the world has found

some common strands and suggested that

there are some clear gender differences in

A study at the University of Amsterdam

suggests that women have more of a "sur-

the learning process.

problems by isolating central issues.

can be a turn-off to more rebellious youngsters. We wanted

to do something different." Anthony Seldon, Headmaster of Brighton College, endors-es the approach. "Kids need de-terrents, but are bored by policemen holding up banned packages. This series plays to a different part of their psyche, appealing to their emotions."

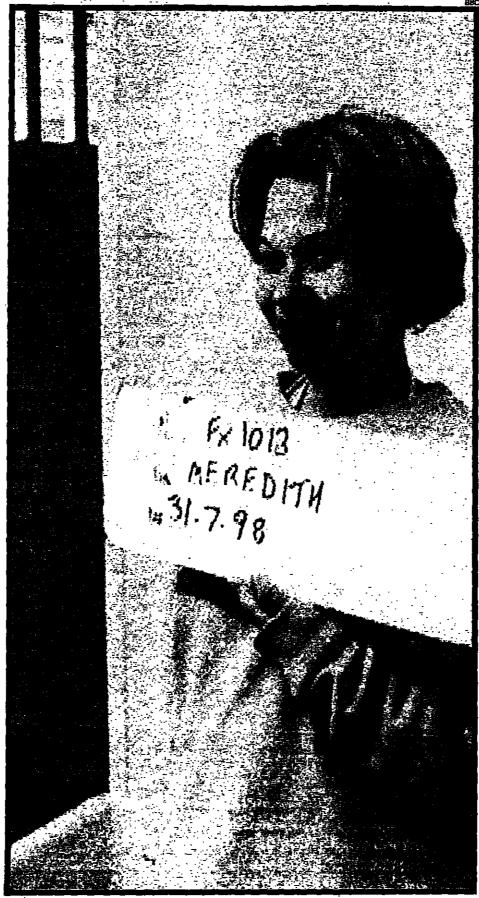
Brighton College has never adopted a head-in-the-sand attitude towards drugs. A visit from Leah Betts's father last term demonstrated to students that drugs can be the cause of an untimely death, but before Jailbirds, few had appreciated the deadening effects drugs

can have on one's life.

Mr Seldon says: "It's not just that they say this isn't a middle-class thing. Young people use every reason they can to claim that they won't be affected, that it's about northerners or southerners; teenagers' skills of projection rarely extend to seeing the potential im-pact on the people who care about them most their parents. Children don't think of the parental point of view. They need to be made to think from this perspective. Seeing Melissa's parents weeping at home shocked the youngsters into some sort of realisation."

evidence were needed of the unglamorous reality of the post-docusoan lives of the Jailbirds stars, it is the Easter holiday that Melissa has just passed at home. Trying to kick her habit for the seventh time in as many months, she was confined to the house, continually

watched over by her parents. Eight months after the series was made. Bob Meredith. Melissa's father and a construction company general foreman in Barton-upon-Humber, says: "My wife and I have did the programme as a deterrent to other children. Ultimately, if Melissa can get her



Bob Meredith: "Melissa's a likeable girl and I think she could really influence teenagers"

into schools to tell kids how dangerous drugs are."

Now off heroin, Melissa is tle, it is Melissa's own words that offer the most powerful

Why girls seem smarter

How you learn depends on gender, says Tony Mooney

ity tale of Jailbirds: "If you're on it, get off it, because you will end up the same.

You'll think, I wouldn't ever end up in jail, or robbing: but you will. It just turns you bad. Bad. Lower than low."

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Still time to avert strike chaos

ne astounding fact stood out from the hundreds of debates, fringe meetings and briefings that have taken place in the fortnight of classroom union conferences, which ends today. It was the revelation to a disbelieving press corps that the National Union of Teachers had not held a national strike for 30 years. Had our ears been deceiving us as we endured Easter after Easter of tub-thumping? Perhaps: it appears that the annual seaside spectacle, which a rival union leader once said caused teachers to switch off news bulletins in embarrassment. last resulted in a one-day strike in 1969. There have been boycotts, work-to-rules and co-ordinated local strikes, but the threats of "classroom chaos" that punctuate every NUT conference have somehow nev-

er materialised. One reason is the union's tightly framed rulebook, which enables the comparatively moderate leadership to block most calls to the barricades. Demands for action that pass this hurdle face the need for a twothirds majority of eligible voters (not just those voting) if there is any question of members making claims on the quaintly named "sustenation

It takes rare unanimity from the NUT's perpetually warring political factions, and genuine feeling among the 190,000 members, to turn conference rhetoric into militant practice.

Might the issue of performance-related pay create such conditions? It appears so, when even the more moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers is prepared to contemplate industrial action and the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers is keeping this weapon in reserve in case negotiation fails. The NUT leadership is behind the call for a strike, rather than trying to frustrate militant oppo-nents, and conference delegates of all political shades were determined to make a stand against the Government's proposals.

Should parents, in that case, prepare themselves for a summer - and even an autumn - of disruption to school life? Probably not, for a number of reasons. The NUT's ordinary members, predominantly in primary schools, will be harder to convince than the conference firebrands that strike action will "force" the Government to come up with £3,000 pay rises all round. The other unions are upping the ante in the hope of weakening the link between pay and pupils' results, but they are a long way from strike action. Even the NUT is proposing only a one-day

strike next term. Public examinations will not be affected, although the union could decide to target national curriculum tests, which they have always resented. Sustained strike action - if it comes at all - is likely to be in the autumn, but that presupposes that feelings will still be running as high after the long summer holiday, when the scheme may have been amended.

However, it would be a mistake for the politicians to believe that opposition to their current proposals is confined to those whose idea of an enjoyable Easter is a rerun of the debates they held the previous year. Head teachers, for example, are rightly concerned that annual appraisal of all their staff will take up an inordinate amount of time, while

the Institute of Personnel and Development has warned against using the same process for career development and salary purposes.

The real obstacle to agreement with the teachers, however, is their fear of payment by results. The NUT is particularly vehement on the subject because the whole history of the union is bound up with resist-ance to the Victorian system, which divided schools and saw teachers evicted from tied cottages. Ministers are yet to convince classroom practitioners that their scheme bears no resemblance to its 19th-century predecessor, although anyone who has examined the detail of

their proposals should have no doubt. Pupils' results will be only one element of performance and schools will be able to set the targets they choose, taking account of the prior

achievement of each class.

To some extent David Blunkett and his colleagues have been hoist with their own pe-tard in trying to spell out every stage of the process. Head teachers should have as much flexibility as possible to see that the best teachers are rewarded, and the Government's understandable insistence on "something for something" should not mean the loading of additional and possibly unnecessary responsibilities on to those who seek recognition. The main purpose of the exercise is to keep the best teachers in the classroom, not to divert them into extraneous activities.

Once teachers are convinced that this will be the outcome, the spectre of prolonged industrial action will surely recede. Even those with doubts about the scheme will recognise that government offers of £1 billion do not come around very often and, in the real world, are hardly likely to come with no strings attached.

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Fear of failure is a factor that can improve the learning capabilities of girls

be one explanation for the success of girls. Teachers play a particularly important role in female learning because girls tend to want tasks defined in more detail than boys do. Such an approach is likely to appeal to a teacher's feeling of self-importance and to meet a favourable response. which is encouraging to girls. The emphasis teachers place on the consequences of academic failure is another advantage to girls in school. The Dutch academics also found that fear of failure was a factor that improved the learning capabilities of girls. Boys seem to have a more cavalier attitude to learning.

face approach to learning than men: they are more inclined to commit learning to memory. Though the researchers do not A study at Lancaster, Durham and Shefmake the link, because schools still emfield universities and London University's phasise the ability to memorise, this could Institute of Education also identified moti-

vational reasons behind girls' superior performance. Using data on almost 1,200 children in two comprehensives, the researchers found that girls are more "taskorientated" than boys: they gain satisfaction from developing their understanding of the work they are doing. Boys are more "ego-orientated": they gain satisfaction from their studies through performing better, or at least, no worse than others.

Teachers will need to devise ways of introducing competition into the learning process to meet the needs of boys without alienating the girls. At secondary level schools need to note that boys are more interested in gaining qualifications than in

the intrinsic value of courses. ■ The author is a former head teacher.

Lloyd puts Davis Cup job on line

By ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

NEVER has there been quite such a wiping of brows, a clear-ing of throats or a sucking of teeth as at the draw for the Davis Cup world group relegation play-offs yesterday. Despite all the efforts of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski over the Easter weekend, Great Britain lost their tie with the United States and therefore have just one more chance to stay in the world group. So when South Africa were pulled out of the hat, at home, there was relief all round.

There were several nations lying in wait for Britain, all of whom could have made life difficult. The thought of playing Chile away on clay after the

DRAW

ners of following matches p ext year's world group, loo el group one competitions

Czech Republic v * Urbelostan * Romania v Germany * Great Britam v South Africa Finland v * Italy The Netherlands v * Ecuador * New Zealand v Span Swarlen v * Austra

* denotes country has choice of varue ☐ Ties to be played on September 24-26

US Open was enough to make brave men tremble. Marcelo Rios may be short of both leg and commitment, but what he can do on a clay court in Santiago has never been in question. On the other side of the coin, everyone wanted to draw Finland, a team including such household names as Tuo-

mas Ketola and Ville Liukko. South Africa are not exactly a pushover, but give Britain a more than fighting chance. Wayne Ferreira will lead the South Africans and he has a good record against both British men, tying 2-2 with Hen-man and 4-4 with Rusedski.

Henman and Ferreira seem to take it in turns to win, with

Henman taking the honours last time in Stockholm in November, but Rusedski has beaten Ferreira in their past three meetings, most recently at the US Open last year.

Not that Lloyd, Henman or Rusedski were anywhere to be seen. They have all gone their separate ways in search of sun and relaxation. From the beach in Barbados, Lloyd was as optimistic as ever.

"South Africa have a good team, they are tough cookies," he said. "Ferreira can be a great player but on a bad day he can be awful. After last weekend, to have a home tie is terrific and it will be fantastic for the fans, but for me it is an absolutely vital match. We cannot afford to lose the momentum we have gained. We cannot afford to be relegated."
Lloyd has pinned his imme-

diate future on the tie. "I am quite a proud individual," he said, "and I'm very self-critical. If I lose this tie, it will be my last match as captain. I won't hang around."

He is already thinking of venues and playing surfaces. The South Africans are brought up on cement, so we don't want that," he said. "We have the option of either going indoors or playing on grass and grass is to our advantage." Lloyd believes Queen's Club could be the ideal venue. "We have to play it where the public can come and see it. I firmly believe the tie will be a sell-out and Queen's can seat

6,000 to 7,000." Britain's only flaw is the lack of back-up. South Africa can call upon Ferreira, Marcos Ondruska, ranked 136, and David Nainkin, ranked 139, while their pairing of Adams and De Jager are No 5 in the doubles rankings. Without either Henman or Rusedski. the British team looks very

Lister searching for final flourish



ey players expect to carry their sticks for most of the year in pursuit of titles, cups and med-als. Those in the eight-club women's Premier National League could, however, be forgiven for thinking that the final whistle should already have blown on a competition that started in October and finished almost a month ago.

This year, however, the English Hockey Association has called for extra time by deciding to use play-offs to find its champion. Slough, Ipswich, Hightown and Clifton must go first to Reading, on April 17, ahead of the final at the National Stadium in Milton Keynes, in early May.

Sandie Lister, a former England and Great Britain midfield player who has played for lpswich for 17 years, admits it is a little hard on Slough, who finished top of the league. The side who goes through a whole season and comes out with more points than anyone else should be acknowledged as the true winners," she said.

The chance to travel the artificial turf of foreign lands as Slough, the English champions, and Clifton, the cup holders, have been doing — is the prize at stake. "Play-offs are an exciting finale to the season," Lister said, "and it means the club who finished fourth still has a chance to win and qualify for the European club championship."

Under Lister's captaincy. lpswich have done that three times before. This season, be-



fore injuries and jitters stalled their momentum, the Suffolk side looked like they would score the psychological goal by finishing top. "Because of the the play-offs system." Lister said, "we wanted first or second place."

They now get two chances of reaching the final. Slough and Ipswich will play at Reading and the winner goes forward to Milton Keynes. The victors from the other tie will play the losers of the Slough v Inswich match to decide the other finalists.

Lister, 37, acknowledges her own stopwatch is ticking. "Realistically for me, we've got to win it this year," she said. "I want to compete in Europe again but I can't see myself playing any more after next

She has been here before,

when she decided to call time on a 13-year international career that began against Belgium in 1982. "My appetite for hockey hasn't lessened," she said. "On ability alone I could have carried on playing for England, but I needed to stop

and do other things." One of the sacrifices she made was to turn her back on another sporting passion cricket. Lister represented Jun-

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gan to overlap, was forced to choose. Stick beat bat, although last autumn she represented England in the first women's indoor cricket World Cup in Australia. "I was brought up in Yorkshire, so I bave some regrets about crick-et," she said. The World Cup was fun, although we didn't do very well and the numbers

playing in the indoor leagues

seem to be in decline." Hockey is a different story, where the elite become fulltime professionals months ahead of the big events. "If we are going to compete with the best nations people can't train with full-time jobs," said Lister, a teacher at King Edward VI school in Bury St Edmunds.

"But the appetite for winning doesn't come through money. It's about personal attitude and the capacity to push yourself further than anyone else. That's difficult to coach

'It's all about attitude and the capacity to push yourself further than anyone'

and I'm not sure all the youngsters fully realise that."

Lister hopes increased professionalism will not swamp old-fashioned sportsmanship. The Premier League is highly competitive, which is why it's so prized," she said. "But I think sometimes things are carried off the field in a way they never used to be."

Top of Lister's list of happy moments is leading England out at the now defunct Wentbley international and winning bronze at the Barcelona Olympic Games. "I used to go to the Wembley international on a school trip every year and it was everyone's dream to play there," she said. "The Olympics were probably my proudest moment and that feeling, standing on the medal rostrum, is unforgettable."

With her self-confessed "twiight zone" fast approaching, Lister knows one more national title would provide another notable landmark for her already glittering memory lane.

University

Hamed's entrance may leave Ingle col Ingle cold By Srikumar Sen Boxing CODD

THE special entrances of Na. seem Harned go down a treat with the punters and, more often than not, last longer than the main event. But when Hamed meets Paul Ingle, of Scarborough, at the Manchester Evening News Arena on Saturday, the son et lumière might not go down well with

the Scarborough man. Harned's brother, Riath, the boxer's business manager, has planned a special entrance that will last around 15 minutes. "We have something special planned," he said "Something that's not been done before.

However, Ingle will not wait in the ring more than five min-utes for Hamed to start the fight and if he is kept waiting any longer he will go back to his dressing-room. "If it takes more than five minutes, we're out of the ring," Frank Maloney, Ingle's manager, said yesterday. This is not a gimmick. My fighter is not warming up in the dressing-

Maloney's non-compliant attitude was in keeping with his irritation after Hamed reminded him that locals. been knocked down in training in Pennsylvania. "If that happened in training in the training in training in training in training in training in the training in training in training in training in training in the training in training in training in training in training in the training in traini happened in training, what would happen to him in the ring?" Harned kept repeating throughout the final meeting between the two boxers in Manchester yesterday. Predictably, it was not long before the conference descended into a slanging match.

However, it was not Hamed who started the verbal punchup. Matters came to a head only when Steve Pollard, ingle's trainer, riled Hamed by asking him if he was in good health. Pollard said he did not want him to make any excuses after losing his title.

Ingle kept quiet. After 13 weeks of training he remains confident of beating the "un-beaten". He has £10,000 on himself to win at 5-1.

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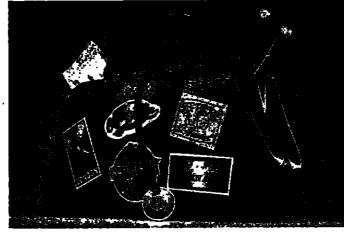
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England grope for answers to one-day failings

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

IF THE problem of England's ditions here for a 90-run loss World Cup contracts is moving closer to a resolution. progress on the field is becoming altogether harder to spot. A record of seven losses in eight one-day international matches is a disturbing one and there is little evidence to suggest that England are likely to improve it in the sweltering heat here.

They arrived hoping success in the Coca-Cola Cup would build confidence, but now the gloomier corollary must be considered. Extending the sequence of defeats will leave self-belief drained ahead of the opening game of the bigger tournament, against Sri Lanka on May 14.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, yesterday refused to underplay the significance of the game against India tonight, and declined the easy option of blaming the con-

Pakistan give hint of future potential

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat India by

LIKE England 24 hours previously, India found themselves powerless to deny Pakistan anything but resounding victory at the CBFS Stadium last night. Evidently it requires more than familiarity with conditions here in Sharjah to threaten an invigorated side such as Pakistan, who appear more united and resourceful with each performance.

They took the attack to the India bowlers from the opening overs, when ljaz Ahmed threatened to reprise his glorious century against England and, after a stutter in mid-innings, totalled 279 for eight from 50 overs. In contrast, the India openers showed little stomach for the pace of

India might, briefly, have hit Jadeja in front of his held thoughts of victory when

112128

to Pakistan on Wednesday, when England conceded 323 runs in 50 overs, their most generous performance in almost 300 limited-overs fixtures. For Alec Stewart, the captain, it contributed towards a subdued 36th birth-

day yesterday. Having consistently reiterated that winning the tournament takes priority over experimenting for the World Cup, England are in danger of fail-ing to reach the final a week today unless bowlers chosen with overcast mornings back home in mind can find ways to restrict opposing batsmen and the fielding shows a marked

While Graveney said that the top six could be "taken as read" - a tacit acknowledgement that Andrew Flintoff has overtaken Adam Hollioake -

fore sweeping after an extrava-gant flurry of strokes. Howev-

er, Inzamam and Yousuf You-

hana played themselves in

gradually before completing a

fourth wicket partnership of

140 in 28 overs. Even when he

was hit on the foot by Srinath.

Inzamam decided to continue

with a runner before leaving

for hospital after being caught

by Azharuddin off Prasad for

107. Youhana overcame initial

difficulties against the leg-

spinner to reach 57 when he

The decline of the innings

began when Akhtar beat

Ramesh for pace, an attempted pull finding mid-

wicket off the splice of the bat.

Ganguly suffered a questiona-

ble leg before decision as

Saglain went around the wick-

et but when Mahmood had

Azharuddin caught behind

stumps India had reached the

vas beaten by Srinath.

Ramesh for

again after conceding 18 on Wednesday. The absence of Sachin Tenthe opening partnership of dulkar, who has decided to rest a back injury until the World Cup, has substantially weakened India who. like England, have suffered against Pakistan of late.

Graveney believes that new terms offered by the England and Wales Cricket Board for the World Cup will be approved by the players, who rejected the initial approach. No more money is offered overall, but it is understood that a basic sum upfront is greater and a minimum payment is guaranteed to anybody injured during the build up.

Nick Knight and Stewart is

overdue a stand of substance.

larly disappointing and we

have to dig deep for a perform-ance against India," Graveney

said. "The form of the top of

the order is a concern, but I

am confident of the ability of

"We are here to stop what has become a serious lack of

success and that means pick-

ing the best team for these con-

is that we need to embark on

these tournaments more often

than in the past."
Robert Croft is vulnerable to-

day after failing to trouble the Pakistan batsmen and his

most likely replacement is Ian

Austin. Flintoff is unlikely to

be asked to bowl the final over

tions. My consistent stance

the two lads there.

The run of results is particu-

"I know the terms, and based on a conversation with Alec I am confident that contracts will be signed either here or after players have taken them home for their lawyers," Graveney said.

Given the importance of the matter it is surprising that Simon Pack, the board's international teams director, has chosen to remain in England rather than travelling to present the offer in person.



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Hughes gives stubborn lead

By Ivo Tennant

FENNER'S (first day of three: Cambridge University won toss): Cambridge University have scored 261 for seven wickets against Lancashire

AT A time when administrators are thrashing around in pursuit of change and appeasing the Minister of Sport, tranquillity still pervades Fenner's. County cricketers still seem to relish coming here as well as the Parks at the start of the season, and not merely with batting averages in nund,

Derek Randali, the Cambridge University coach, gamboiled around in the spring sunshine and remarked that he had never before seen sunglasses worn on the opening day of the season. True, it still announces itself in an apologetic way, but there was a fair crowd and not a blanket nor a Thermos in sight. Some of the

ON TUESDAY

cricket was commendable too What has not remained constant is the old custom of the Cambridge captain, upon win-ning the toss, inviting the visitors to bat. When the stars are absent, in Sharjah or on the treatment table, there is not the same compunction to do so. Anyway, it was sufficiently warm for Schofield, the young Lancashire leg spinner. to bowl more overs, 23, than anyone else.

Without Singh, Smith and House, all of whom will be playing county cricket this summer, Cambridge's batting is not what it was last year. They are captained by Ouentin Hughes, whose innings of 84 yesterday equalled his highest first-class score, achieved last year against Glamorgan. He does not boast a spectacular career average, nor a contractual attachment to a county, but he is solid enough.

Six Blues remain, including Imraan Mohammed, son of Sadiq, a former Pakistan tally, is not a scorecard compiler's error: unlike Abdul Qadir's son, he is not named



Study still took priority for one spectator as the new Fenner's season began yesterday

after Imran Khan. What he does do, is bat with marked concentration, for he took an hour to make 12 even though the pitch that was not as slow as might be imagined for the

earliest ever start to a season. The most promising performance of the day came from Smethurst, a rangy and decidedly nippy bowler from Middleton in the Central Lancashire League, who was making his debut. He had Pyemont leg-before and, shortly becaught low down by the wicketkeeper. How much he does with the ball is another

matter, but, at the age of 22, there is time enough to im-

All the other players Lancashire fielded had first-team experience. Only four of them are likely to be regulars this season, but now is the time to make an impression. And in the middle of all the action, taking one wicket with his medium pace and another with his off spin. and chasing the ball as hard as anyone, was Watkinson, a greying figure keen as ever he was. Fenner's in the springtime has that ef-

fect on you.

SCOREBOARD

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First in

\[\text{N} \text{ M Walker to Schofield} \]

Mohammed c McKeown b Walkerson

\[\text{O} \text{ J Hughes c and b Schofield} \]

\[\text{P Pyemort b Smethural} \]

\[\text{R Lovendge low b Walterson} \]

\[\text{S Halkail is Haynes b Childon} \]

\[\text{J Collins c Haynes b Smethurst} \]

\[\text{D anenon not out} \]

LANCASHIRE: P.C. McKeown, N.T. Wood, M.J. Chilon, M.E. Harvey, "G.D. Lloyd, M. Wal-kinson, 1.J. Haynes, C.P. Scholeid, G. Chap-ple, R.J. Green, M.P. Smethurst es: D R Shepherd and M R Benson.

University bowlers keep mind on the jcb

By JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (first day of three: Oxford won toss): Worcestershire have scored 284 for six wickets against Oxford University

IF THE first-class season has to start on April 8 - the earliest date on record - it could do so in many worse places than The Parks. A crisp, spring day and a benign pitch were all in favour of Worcestershire's batsmen, but although Paul Pollard, lately of Nottinghamshire, opened his account for Worcestershire with a halfcentury, featuring in a century opening partnership with Philip Weston, and David Leatherdale cruised to 71. Oxford were worthy opponents.

Cheap runs were at a premium. The Oxford bowlers, featuring two left-arm seamers in Dean Kino and David Mather, and Tom Hicks, an accurate purveyor of off spin, concentrated on line and length. Their fielding, with James Fulton outstanding, was keen and effective, although a third man for the quicker bowlers would

have saved many runs. Although Pollard and Weston produced some sparkling off drives, they were never wholly dominant. Only when Leatherdale, in spite of fading light, busied himself with strokes all round the wicket, moving to his half-century from 76 balls with eight fours. did Oxford look like wilting.

It was perhaps significant that Hicks, who had bowled 26 overs on the trot before tea. taking two wickets for 61, had been rested before Leatherdale got under way. Hicks did not achieve much turn, but his accuracy and change of pace were potent weapons. Kino also impressed. His figures suffered more than most from finding the outside edge with no third man.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Inlangs
W P C Weston c Futon b Kino.
P R Pollard c Eadle b Hints.
V S Solarlio b Hints.
V S J Rinodes c Bryne b Mather.
Y S J Rinodes c Bryne b Mather.
R K Hingworth not out.
Extras (b 5, 1b 2, mb 4)

A Shenyar, C.G. Liptrot and J.M. de la Pen-to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-124, 2-156, 3-200 4-225, 5-262, 5-281. BOWLING: Kino 21-3-74-1. Eache 15-4-35-0: Matther 19-6-55-2: Harks 26-10-61-2; Fulton 1-1-0-0: Bryme 15-1-52-1 Print, JJ Buit, BW Bryne, JAG Fution, "JA Claughton, JP 8 Barnes, tO J Eadle, DP Mather, D Kino, T C Hinks

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

Kumble removed ljaz leg-be- point of no return.

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES late of Georgianser ched there on a November 1998 (Estate about 25,000) NOVEMBER 1998 (Estate about 25,000) ROBLITHOOD Robert Thomass Southwood late of Nemadom, London MW10 cm 25 (mas 1998 (Estate about 255,000) RURLOWS Nellie Mangaret Burrows spinster hase of Montlake, London SW14 tiled there on 24 December 1998 (Estate about 26,000)

there on 19 Octobe 1996 (Letals about 27.500)
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PANAS Josef Panas has of Darlington Co Dantam died there on 26 Junuary 1999 (Estate about 210,000)
RAAD Alice Rand widow late of Sheffield, South Norkahire died there on 11 September 1998 (Estate about 119,000)
SINCLARE James William Sinchallate of Corby Hül, Caushrid died there on 26 April 1997 (Estate about 640,000)
The kin of the above pamed are re-

about 640,000). The idea of the above named are re-quested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (R.V.). Queen Anne's Chambers, 2B Broadway, London SWIE 935, faiting which the Treasury Solicitor way take steps to administer the astate.

LEGAL NOTICES

10 m

ATLANTIC REALISATIONS NOI FLG (IN LIQUIDATION)
Notice is hemsby given that a meeting of the creditors of the company will be held at Noi London Bridge, SEI FGL on 30 April 1999 at 11.00 am. The purpose of the meeting, which is called personant to Rule 4.54 of the insolvency act 1986, is to discuss the proposed rights of contribution agreement and agroothe associated costs. Resolutions regarding the proposal and creations. the associated costs. Resolutions-requiring the proposal and creat-will be put to the meeting of the creditors. Any creditors wishing to vote at the meeting unsal complete and ledge with me a proxy form, anders the treather is an individual arranding the meeting personally or a company authentising a representative under personally of a substantial under the provisions of Section 375 of the Componies Act 1965. A crotian who has not set substantial a claim and who wishes to vote a claim and who wishes to vote a claim and who wishes to vote a to make the caseting whether he person, by jump, or in some other way, must do so helding the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

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J. WALSH (FOOTWEAK) LIBETED
PECESTHEED NUMBER: 946774
Trading namus: J. Walsh
(Footwar) Liminal Return of
business: Minumacturer of footwest Wholesaler of clothing and
footwarz. Trade classification:
1900 5142. Date of appointments
30 March 1999. Name pomon appointing: National Westighaster
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Early Fig. Administrative Eccepture

GREAT NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY LIMITED NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS FOR CONFIRMATION OF BYELAWS RELATING TO THE RAILWAY OF

GREAT NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY LIMITED Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 67 of the Transport Act 1962 and section 129 of the Rathways Act 1993 that Great North Eastern Rathway Ltd., has made byelaws relating to the railway of Great North Eastern Railway Ltd. and intend to apply to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions for his confirmation. A copy of the Lyelaws in respect of which application for confirmation is to be made can be inspected free of charge for a period of 28 days

from the date of this notice between the hours of 09.00 and 15.00 Mondays to Fridays at perween me mutits of US.AU and 15.00 Mondays to Fridays at the Company's registered office at the Legal Department, Sea Containers Services 11d, Sea Containers House, 20 Upper Ground, London, SEL 9FF and at the Franchise Development Office, Great North Eastern Railway, Room M26, Station Rise, York, YOT 64TF, and

between the hours of 09.00 and 16.00 hours Mondays to Saturdays, at The Standard Waiting Lounge, King's Cross Station, London, N1 9AP, and at The GNER First Class Lounge, Edinburgh Waverley Station, Edinburgh, EH1 IYL.

A copy of the byelaws may be obtained at a price of Sop either by attending any of the places listed above or by writing to either of the places listed in sub-paragraph (a) above. During the 28 day period any person attented by the new byelaws may make representation to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions by writing to him at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Zone 3/33 (Byelaws), Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4RP.

Dated this 9th day of April 1999 D 1 O'Sullivan Esq., Company Secretary for and on behalf of Great North Eastern Railway Ltd. Sea Containers House

ADMINISTRATIVE RECEVERSHIP
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEVERSHIP
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEVERSHIP
ACTICE IS HERRIFY CAVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insulvency
Act 1996, that a meaning of the
active numed company will be held
active numed company will be held
at the Gener Rottlens Helds, Lind
at The Gener Rottlens Helds, Lind
1999, at 1830pm for the purpose
of having your report held before
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Administrative Rottlens of the
Administrative Rottlens or the
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are at Clanb, a Lovenna, 205 Permmenta, The Borises Whisef Belliding,
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THE DISSOLVERCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEMESY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Innetweet Act 1986 that a Macting of the Conflict of the Above named Company will be hald at Longdom Bonne, Hedgehog Lace HASLE-MEEL, Schwer, Gulz 22H o 14th April 1999 et 1100m for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
Conflicts wishing to wore at the Meeting zuset lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Sogner Regist, West Smear, POZI 18T not 1star than 12 noon on 13 April 1999. For the purposes of voting, a security of voting a security of the security? to ledge at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Sogner Register of the Security of the Ledge at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Sogner Register of the Security of the Ledge at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Some and Security of the Ledge at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Some and Security of the Ledge at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Some and Security of the Secu

cured creditor in required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Bognor Regie, West Square, 1902; IST before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the valon at which it is sesseed.

Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be hypotest, free of charge, at 17 - 19 Lyon Street West, Rogner Bejls, West Sunsen, PQ21 IST between 10.00m and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the dare of the meeting stated above.

By Order of the Board

MACKIE INTERNATIONAL GROUP PLC.

(IN ADMINISTRATIVE BROWNESS TO THE BROWNESS T MACKIE INTERNATIONAL

and
b) Where the creditor cannot attend in pageon, a foots of presy
which the creditor intends to be
used on this behalf is ledged with
the necessary before the meeting.
Creditors whose claims are fully
secured are not entitled to attend
or be represented at the meeting.
Claims and procise or requisity
should be sent to the administrative receivers at Deloite & Touche
at the address before.
Detect 7 April 1999
For and or babel of Mackie intermational Group pic resident Group pic Region A Powdrill and Thomas M

tre & Touche

GORGE RANDS MANAGEMENT
SERVICES LIBITED
2BGISTERED NUMBER 1253119
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clothing and festurest. Trade disssification: 1930 5142. Date of sppolarments 30 March 1999. Name
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Beculevas addresses: 101 Bentinol-GRORGE BANKS MANAGEMENT one2. Administrative proteivers addresses: 101 Santirol-H Square, Lover Mosley Street, Hamelester M20 3PW

HISTRANCE COMPANIES
ACT 1982.
TRANSFER OF GENERAL EXEMPLES
1. Notice in heraby given that the
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2. The Freedish Insurance Supervisca of such application, 3. Copies of the statement of par-

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4. Written tepratemations con-cerning the transfer may be sent to from the transfer may be sent to for 7831, 8-103-98 Sunchkelm, freedom, be-fore 4th june, 1999.

GILLADE AND ASSEWORTH
INSTED
RECEITERED NUMBER: 1390597
Trading names: Gileads and Ashworth limited. Haves of business:
Merchandising and convexting unturials for the footeness industry.
Trade classification: 1930 5142.
Date of appointment: 30 March
1999. Name person appointing:
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7852. Administrative Bactives
addresses: 101 Enthrolli Square,
Lower Mosley Street, Manchestar
MCO SPW CILLEADE AND ASSESSORTE

SAILING

Light airs leave Ariel struggling

HAVING won almost every stage of the Clipper 98 round the world race for paying amateurs to date, Alex Thomson and the crew of Ariel have a battle on their hands if they are to prevail on the tricky 1,560-mile leg from Hong Kong to Singapore (Edward

Gorman writes). With around 500 miles left to sail for the leading boats, the generally light winds have seen Thomson, the youngest skipper in the seven-strong fleet, slip to third place behind Tim Hedges, in Chrysolite, who is leading from Barney Solars, in Mermerus.

Yesterday, the identical David Pedrick-designed sloops were plodding to windward in just five knots of wind as they continued their voyage across the South China Sea.

In the United States, Bob Rice, weather router for Steve Fossett and the crew of the 115ft catamaran, PlayStation. has predicted that the huge multihuli could travel more than 625 miles in 24 hours, given the right conditions.

In the wake of PlayStation's new record run of 580 miles two weeks ago, Rice said: "The objective is 625 to 675 miles for PlayStation." He also suggested the transatiantic record by Jet Services V of seven days could be reduced by a day.

At the Volvo RYA National Youth Championships on Grafham Water, Jamie Smith heads the men's Laser Radial fleet after the overnight leader. Paul Griffiths, finished 29th in the first of two races, leaving him four points adrift.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Chinn inspires win E ICE HOCKEY: Nicky Chinn helped Great Britain to a vital

opening victory in his side's quest to join the world elite yesterday. Chinn, the Cardiff Devils forward, scored the winning goal early in the final period for a 2-1 victory over Slovenia in Pool B of the world championships in Denmark. The result was a measure of revenge for Britain, who were beaten 5-3 by Slovenia in the corresponding event last year in what Peter Woods, the coach, described as his side's worst performance. Britain triumphed through some determined defending in front of the inspirational Stevie Lyle, the Cardiff goalkeeper letting in just one of 45 shots.

■ BASKETBALL: Newcastle Eagles, who have yet to reach Wembley following defeats by London Towers in each of the past two seasons, will be attempting to exact revenge tonight when they start this season's play-offs in the Telewest Arena. Under the coaching of Kevin Cadle, the Towers progressed each time 2-1. Lino Frattin, Cadle's successor, will be hard pushed to win the series a third year running. Thames Valley Tigers begin their quarter-final series at Derby Storm tomorrow, dreading a repeat of 1994 when as league champions they were subjected to a 2-0 reverse.

ECURLING: Scotland, coached by Hammy McMillan, stayed on target for a place in the finals at the world championships in New Brunswick yesterday, despite almost losing to New Zealand, who are bottom of the table. Scottish experience told however, as they took both shots at the extra end for an 8-6 victory. The Scotland women's team, who were bottom of the table, reached a new low when they were routed by Japan 2-10 after just eight ends.

E RUGBY UNION: Wales are to play two international matches on their five-match tour to Argentina in May and June. Graham Henry, the Wales coach, is planning to take a playing party of 37 to South America in a bid to finalise his squad for the World Cup. Among the surprise inclusions could be Gareth Cooper, the Bath scrum half, Alix Popham, the Newport flanker, and Stephen Jones, the Lianelli utility

TEMMS: Boris Becker, playing only his third ATP Tour event this year and heading into retirement, yesterday reached the Hong Kong Open quarter-finals. He beat Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, the No 6 seed, 6-4, 7-6. Becker, 32, was joined in the last eight by fellow Germans Nicolas Kiefer, Bernd Karbacher and Hendrik Dreekmann, who eliminated Michael Chang, the No 8 seed, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

II SWIMMING: Ian Wilson, who finished fourth in the 1,500 metres freestyle at the world short course championships in Hong Kong on Sunday, is retiring after a career spanning 20 years. The City of Leeds swimmer said: "This is a tough decision to make. Swimming has been my life."

HOCKEY

Umpres P Wiley and P Adams

Sheffield aim to cross over

SHEFFIELD, who finished nineteenth in the National League first division, are joined by five regional champions for the inter-league play-offs at Milton Keynes, today. Peterborough Town, Fareham and Formby make up pool A, while Edgbaston, Whitchurch and Sheffield are in pool B.

By the end of play on Sunday, the teams finishing first and second in each pool will qualify for crossover matches on April 24. The winners of these matches will play in the restructured EHL second division in the 1999-2000 season.

The National League premier division also ends on Sunday. Cannock and Southgate are already assured of the top two positions, but behind them the contest for fourth is wide open_Beeston, only two points behind Canterbury, must beat Southgate on Sunday and hope that Canterbury lose to Guildford.

In the women's divisions. Jane Swinnerton-Ions could make her final league appearance when she plays for Aldridge in the second leg of the play-offs for the EHL premier division at Doncaster, tomorrow.

The former England and Great Britain striker is expecting her second child in October and says that, after 11 successive league campaigns and the rigours of training, she may well step down at the end of the season. As one of the all-time leading goalscorers in the league, she has every intention of steering the Midlands club in to the premiership.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Nationwide League Gillingham v Bournemouth (7.45) . . .

Third division Swansea v Shrewsbury (7 45) UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division Winsland v Charley (7:30) FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLI-ANCE: First division: Harlepool v Port RUGBY UNION

A international matches France v Scotland (at Bourges, 7.0) Ireland v Italy

(at Wrednam, 7 30).

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: \$1 Patrox's Athletic v Sigo (7 45), Sharmock v UCD (7 45), Bray v Waterlord (7 45)

tat Dannybrook, 5.0). Wales v England

Under-21 International matches France v Scotland (at Vienne, 5.0) keland v Italy (at Ravenhill, 7.30) Wales v England (at Neath, 2.30) Cheltenham and Gloucester Cun

Gloudester v Bedford (at Northampton, 7.45).... RUGBY LEAGUE JJB Super League London v St Helens (7.30).

CRICKET 11.30, second day of three University matches FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Lancashne THE PARKS: Oxford University v

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiner chemplon-ship: Play-off, first leg: Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7 30) HOCKEY: Inter-lengue play-offs (at Mi-ton Keynes) Peterborough Town v Fare-leam (2.0), Edgbeston v Whitchurch (4.0).

Maguire magic spurs Macgeorge

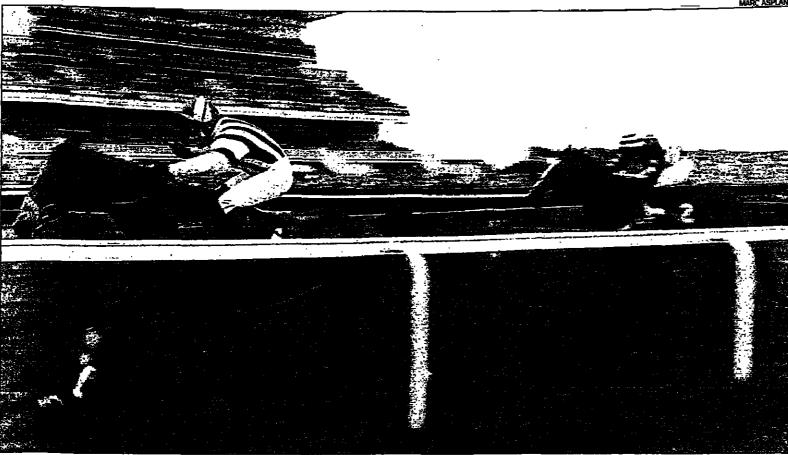
By CHRIS McGrath

AFTER Macgeorge held on to win the Martell Cup at Aintree yesterday, Adrian Maguire recalled the moment when he had looked round to see Richard Johnson, wearing black and white, driving his mount closer, "I recognised the horse and colours at once," he said. "I knew then that I had better keep my lad going." Maguire was being a little disingenuous, however, when he ex-plained why the sight of Escartefigue was such a spur to his efforts. "I knew that the one thing he would do is stay on." he said. More pertinent to his inspired extra thrust, perhaps. was the source of his familiariiv with Escartefigue.

Losing the ride on that horse had, during a bleak midwinhelped undermine Maguire's tenure as stable jockey to David Nicholson. Eventually he freed himself from his bonds to Jackdaws Castle, and it has been marvellous to observe the liberation in his riding since. He gave Macgeorge an outstanding ride from the front, and was similarly positive when making the most of a spare ride on Papo Kharisma in the last. Richard Lee. Macgeorge's trainer, justly endorsed him as "a brilliant horseman and a brilliant tactician".

. For a horse with so much ability, it has to be said that escurtefigue is not the most heartbreaking of losses to a lockey. Once again he looked a hard ride, while Go Ballistic and Majadou both failed to reproduce their Cheltenham

The Escartefigue colours were again second in the Martell Fox Hunters' Chase. where Mely Moss was outclassed by Elegant Lord — one



Macgeorge, under strong driving from Maguire, proves too strong for Escartefigue and Johnson in the Martell Cup at Aintree yesterday

McManus yesterday. They both paid a compliment to the potential champions who relegated them to a supporting role at the Festival. Elegant Lord had exhausted himself rrying to keep abreast of Castle Mane at Cheltenham, while Joe Mac, who sauntered away with the Barton & Guestier Novices' Hurdle, had toiled vainly in pursuit of Hors La Loi III. It was typical that Hors La Loi III himself should then emerge to make

of two horses to win for J. P. harder work of his own success, though he had legitimate excuses for failing to match their flair.

> Elegant Lord mastered his rivals with a little more authority than he did the National fences, having wiped his nose in the grass after Becher's Brook. But Rough Quest, re-turning to the scene of his finest hour, was one of just six failers from 23 starters. He was unscathed, though Mark Bradburne hurt a shoulder. McManus feels too much

sentiment for Elegant Lord to complicate his emotions with one of his bigger bets. "I only had a little on, just to cover the beer money," he said. "He's one of the family. Enda Bolger trains him just down the road. We spend many a night together and this is a good reason for a few more." Bolger feels the horse to be in better heart this year than when he rode him into second 12 months ago. "But Castle Mane must be some horse to beat him the hasn't been producing it on way he did at Cheltenham." the track until today."

Similar sentiments were ex-Hors La Loi III was unhanpressed about Hors La Loi III py making his own running in the Glenlivet Juvenile Hurdle, after Joe Mac allowed Conor O'Dwyer to celebrate his 33rd and had to be driven out to birthday by cruising upsides beat Afarad. Paul Green, who imported the horse from France, said: "He wasn't Grecian Dart at the last and sprinting clear on the flat. The cheap - but I can't watch jockey believes Joe Mac to have been ill-served by the stiff-er track at Cheltenham but them from six feet under, can I? So I might as well enjoy it Christy Roche, his trainer, said: "I was very disappointed with him at Cheltenham. He's unbelievable at home but

4.50 COORINS HANDICAP HURDLE (£14,746: 2m 4f) (16 runners)

Blowing Wind adds a louch of class at the head of the handicap and his presence results in seven of the 16-shong line up carrying more than the long-handicap weights. A back-to-form second to Go informal at Haydock (2m) prior to being brought down at the fifth in the Champion Hurdle, Blowing Wind is inderesting now stepping up in this and appears to hold stronger claims than his stablemate. Ratinbow Frontier. However, both could struggle to prevent In-HAYRAWANE following up his victory of last year. Christy Rocke's seven-year-old confirmed his set a horse for the bion occasions when inaction the Coral Cun at Chelenterar (2m 5) on his latest start.

beating Miltorrifield a head with Darapour (3th better off) another 51 behind in fourth. Bluedonut seventh and Rainbow Frontier 24th. Chellenbarn form is also represented by Sadler's Realm. Beacotive Decision, Buddy Marvel and Serrenus, lourth, lithin, ninth and 10th respectively to St Tathot in the County Hurtle (2m 11), Of the quartet, only Sadler's Realm is proven over boday's tonger mp. Jungil, impressive in beating Polar Right 18t at Uttowster (2m 4f), makes most appeal of the remainder.

5.20 PERRIER JOUET HANDICAP CHASE (£10,582: 3m 1f) (8 numbers)

1 1142-3 EDELWES DU MOULIN 22 (C.F.G.S) (R Opden) Miss V Wallams 7-11-10 .R Demondy 331 2 431224 THE LAND AGENT 27 (S) (D Bire) J Malfins 8-11-8 ... M A Respected 144 3 -14231 ASHWELL BOY 34 (F.G.S) (A B 5 Recting) P Hobbs 8-11-6 ... R Johnson 135 4 1/1/102 (SLAND CHEE 24 (D.G.S) (E Dilipe) P Retamont 10-11-2 ... R Supple 122 5 311233 STORM DAMAGE 27 (G.S) (C Lorry) P Nicholis 7-10-12 ... R Supple 122 5 311233 STORM DAMAGE 27 (G.S) (C Lorry) P Nicholis 7-10-12 ... R Supple 122 7 11-118 CLINTON 24 (D.G.S) (E Thomas) K Bastey 8-10-6 ... N Williamson 134 8 12-21P ROYAL EVENT 141 (F.G.S) (T Whitley) D Gandolio 8-10-0 ... C Llewellyn [182]

BETTING: 5-2 Island Chiet, 7-2 Clinton, Edelwes Du Moulin, 7-1 King Wah Glory, Storm Clamage, 10-1 The Land Agent, 11-1 Ashwell Boy, 16-1 Royal Event.

1998: BLUE CHARM 8-10-0 Mr M Bradburne (8-1) Mrs S Bradburne 6 ran

1986: BLUE CHARM 8-10-0 Mr M Bradburne (8-1) Mrs S Bradburne 6 ran
An interesting finale in which ISLAND CHEF (nap) makes a
fair amount of appeal. He has returned from injury better it an
ever this season and looked an unfacily loser when 51 second
of 18 to Bebys Boy in the William Hill Handicap (3m 1)) at Cheherham, a lost-lence blander possibly
costing hum the race. That form received a boost yesteriday when the fourth, Macqueorget, won the
Martell Cup, and a 3th higher mark for istend Chief here appears very lair. Eddiweis Du Moulin,
ruunting here in gretereace to the John Hughes Trophy, made an encouraging debut for new
connections when Binishing 2 than to Sommylahweather in the Casharat Chase (2m 5) at Chebraham.
Further improvement could be forthcoming but this trip could stretch his staminta and a bugget threat to
the selection may be possed by Cambon. Kim Bailey's charge suffered the mistarture of being brought
down with a circuit to go when lapiced for the Kim Muth at Cheterham but hed previously shown
himself to be on the upgrade with back-to-tack when in tooke company. Shorm Damage had The
Land Agent (2th worse off) onet place and 3143 betind when Rusting 281 fand to be 7the Blood at
Chepsine (2m 31) last lane and may confirm superiority over Seamus Multius's charge who has done
all of his winning on right-handed tracks. Astronel Boy is not a strong finisher but has taken his chances this Season, including when besting Boulis 21 off a 5th lower mark at Newbury (2m 41) lact time.

Long handicap: Royal Event 9-10.

Those prepared to plan for

the future were offered 8-1 by William Hill against Hors La

Henderson hope have last laugh By Alan Lee, racing correspondent housewives, couch potaand sundry other once-aunters have

year punters have yet to make their influence felt on the Martell Grand National market but the professional money is down. Bookmakers yesterday reported such significant support for Fiddling The Facts that she may now start as second favourite behind the ab-surdly short Double Thriller.

Mike Dillon, representing Ladbrokes, explained: "Professional backers used to avoid the National because of its risk factor but since the modification of the fences, they want to play. It is their money that is forcing down Fiddling

For Nick Henderson, trainer of Fiddling The Facts, it would not be a victory out of turn. Henderson has been trying to win the National for 21 years but has never come closer than the second place achieved by Zongalero in his first season of training.

Since then, Henderson has finished third with Classified in 1986, second again through The Tsarevich a year later and fourth with Brown Windsor in 1990. "We've knocked on the door often enough," Henderson said. "But it won't bloody open."

Henderson is convinced that Fiddling The Facts gives him one of his finest opportunities, despite not winning this season. She is the right sort for it and she comes here pretty fresh because we've spaced out her four runs deliberately. It does need to be slow ground for her but I'm pretty sure it's not going to dry out

preparations by schooling over National-style fences in Lambourn but Henderson revealed receipt of a worrying letter last week. "It was on offcial BHB notepaper and it informed me that mares are to be banned from the Grand National because they distract geldings." The date of the missive was April I and Henderson is still seeking the culprit

Suny Bay, the other great Lambourn hope, looks almost certain to be ridden by his regular partner. Graham Bradley, who is rapidly recovering from a bone-shaking fall in Ireland on Moncay.

Bradley plans to ride out for Sherwood, this morning before taking a single ride at Aintree to prove his fitness, "I am having physio twice a day and have been doing some press-ups and lifting exercises. I'm feeling more confident

by the hour," Bradley said. Norman Williamson, who missed Ascot on Wednesday, returned at Aintree yesterday and is fit to ride General Wolfe, while Richard Dunwoody. who gave up his last two rides yesterday through dehydration. expects to be

back today. The few remaining jockey vacancies were filled yesterday, the most notable featuring Conor O'Dwyer, who was booked to ride Cyborgo for Martin Pipe. Of the four horses taken out at the 48-hour stage, Paul Nicholls' Belmont King was the most prominent. He may now be aimed at the Whitbread Gold Cup.

AINTREE

ROB WRIGHT

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 Prominent Profile

GOING GOOD TO SOFT

3.45 Linton Rocks 4:20 King's Road 2.35 Call Equiname 4.50 BLUEDONIX (nap) 5.20 Island Chief (nb)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.45 MAHLER.

2.00 MARTELL MERSEY NOVICES HURDLE

(Grade II £17,850 2m 4f) (6 runners) SETTING 4:0 Renor 5-1 Tonoco, 12-1 Prominent Profile 14-1 Austales, Polis Florid, 40-1 Easton Gale 1998. PROMALEE 6-11-5 C F Swan (9-4 las) A P O'Brien (he) 12 ran

1998, PROMALEE 6-11-5 C F Swan (9-4 las) A P O Briom (he) 12 ran

FORTH ALTALY SISS BARTON would not have looked out of place against Islabrag and company in tomorrow's Martell Hurdle and should extend his unbeaten sequence over himber to severi. He confirmed him and any amount in hand Tomoco looks the one for forecast purposes. His details of Bacchanal (all Hantinndon) and Crazy Horse (at Wetherby) make for good reading and his reverse at Sandown last month flust alternpt over this hip) can be partly attributed to him injuring his pill-fire. He is a grand sort capable of better yet. Austalier (10th) and Prominent Profile (12th) were both soundly beaten behind thost La (oi lif in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham and look up against it.

2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (Grade I: £50,575: 2m 4f) (6)

.01 1.1-11 CALL EQUIVAME 23 (D.6.5) (M Cobum) P Nicholis 9-11-10 ... M A Rizografid (158) 302 (44300 CHALLENGER DU LIUC 23 (B.D.F.6.5) (D Johnson) M Pige 9-11-10 ... P McCoy 133 03 -21243 DIRECT ROUTE 23 (C.F.6.5) (C Heory) H Hward Johnson 6-11-10 ... N Williamson 138 04 (P2120 MILLIGAN 23 (F.G.5) (Lav) Harris) D Nicholzon 9-11-10 ... A Maguiro 117 05 3-1013 SUPER CON 46 (D.F.G.5) (G Brookes) R Lee 11-11-10 ... A Johnson 6-206 253222 DEPER ART 41 (CD.G.5) (Mr.7 Cooper) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C D'Dwyer ... RETTING: 5-4 Call Economie, 3-1 Direct Route, 7-1-1 Opera Hat, Super Com. 12-1 Multigan, Challenger Du Luc. 1998: OPERA HAT 10-11-5 C O'Dwyer (10-1) J Fowler (Ire) 5 ran

1998 OPERA HAT 10-11-5 C O'Dwyer (10-1) J Fowler fire 15 ran

Multigan is the only foot-name in the line-up but, aware of
that. Adman Maguine is unlikely to blaze off — knowing that
would play into the hands of his rivals. A sprint finish over the
taut the rences is the most likely scenario and the horse best equipped to deal with that might be
DIRECT ROUTE. A smooth witner over these fences last year, he was an excellent thrid to Call
Equiname (beaten 4-1) in the Queen Mother Champion Chase last month (Multigan was track in seventh) desprie an interrupted preparation. He can be expected to improve for that run and is taken to turn
the tables. Call Equiname has worn over this trip and will start a worthy lawquine, but given the likely
circumstances the give, who probably needs everything to go his way, is worth opposing. Super Coin
and Challenger Du Luc are both specialists over this distance but the home does not look quite good
enough while the latter has to be opposed given his "after-you" approach at the finish. Opera Hat won
this last year but has tailed to recapture that form and would prefer much softer going.

Pick up a



3.10 MUMM MILDMAY NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £26,775: 3m 1f) (7 runners)

BETTING: 9-4 Malounp, 7-2 Spandid, 4-1 Hts Song, 9-2 Ever Blessad, 5-1 Village King, 14-1 others. 1998: 80SS DOYLE 6-11-7 A P McCoy (6-4 law) M Morris (fire) 8 rain

Ever Blessed is one of the law in this field quarashis distance and, as such, must command respect. He has short progressive form to win at Leicester, Towcester and Barrgor and deserves to take this step up in class. BIAROURALI was a big disappointment in the Artice Chase last time but the ex-French mare is best torgiven that effort as she ran too here in first-time blinkers and, subsequently, was also found to be in season. She deserves arother chance and her bloodless wins over 21% miles at Leicester and Kempton thus term suggest this trip will be writing her compass. His Song also ran below-par in the Artice but he appeared to have no excuses and, moreover, is unproven much beyond two makes. Spendid Ropped in the Royal & SunAtiance Chase and may be feeling the effects of a busy season. Vistage King, by contrast, bounced back from a time-most break when deteating Gratom (rec. 14tb) at Exeter last month and will be suited by the drying ground. King Of Sparta will need a personal best to figure while Cartiste Bandido's is Rying a bit high.

3.45 JOHN HUGHES TROPHY CHASE **ISHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE** (Grand National course; £22,550: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

(Grand National course; £22,550: 2m 6f) (20 rumners)
401 213223 WAYWARD KNG 23 (G.S.) (Felictoring Racing) R Hodges 7-11-10 .M A Fitzgerald 124
402 32-133 EVEN FLOW 41 F.G.S.) (A Vitale) T Casey 10-11-9 ... T J Marphy 134
403 P3F510 LISTEN TRAMY 25 (G.S.) (Sentine) Taxey 10-11-9 ... T J Marphy 134
404 P4F50 SAKTA CONCERTO 24 (D.S.) (Cont) L Longo 10-11-8 ... A Dobton 109
405 P4F50 MARLET FT 6 (D.S.) (Folgist Backmathor Pship) N Intestan-Darles 9-11-7 C Llewellyn 153
406 213114 THE OUTBACK WAY 22 (D.F.G.S.) (Waning Line) Mass V Williams 9-11-7 N Williamson 124
407 361110 LINDEN S LOTTO 24 (D.F.C.F.G.S.) (Mailey) A J Martin (re) 10-11-5 ... A Magnire 135
408 212231 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F.G.S.) (From Mrs Townsland) P Nachols 10-11-3 (3ed J Tizzard 145
409 112144 GRIS DTESTRIVAL 24 (E.S.) (D Johnson) M Piles 5-11-2 ... A P McCoy 125
410 S011-43 RYHANE 71 (BF.F.S.) (R S B McCharey) A L Moore (re) 10-10-9 ... C O'Dever ...
411 22-391 MORYMAN 20 (F.G.S.) (C McSine) (K Ryan 9-10-4 ... D Parter 136
413 1/5065 MOYAN 24 (F.G.S.) (C McSine) (K Ryan 9-10-4 ... D Parter 136
414 4-22P2 MARTRE OE MUSTOM 28 (F.G.S.) (R Doder) M Todhunter 8-10-2 ... R Durwoody 130
415 314005 MATVE STAND 37 (F.G.S.) (R Doder) M Todhunter 8-10-2 ... R Durwoody 130
416 1025933 BALLYLINE 20 (D.G.S.) (Masent) N Masson 11-10-0 (3ed ... R Gaussi 1269
419 124231 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Globy) W Kerze 8-10-0 ... R Durwoody 130
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Caney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... G Gaussi 1269
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... R Durwoody 130
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... R Gaussi 1269
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... R Durwoody 130
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... R Gaussi 1269
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... R Gaussi 1269
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gold Cloby D McCalon 7-10-0 ... R Gaussi 1269
419 124241 THE EHNS 17 (S) (Siney Hell Gol

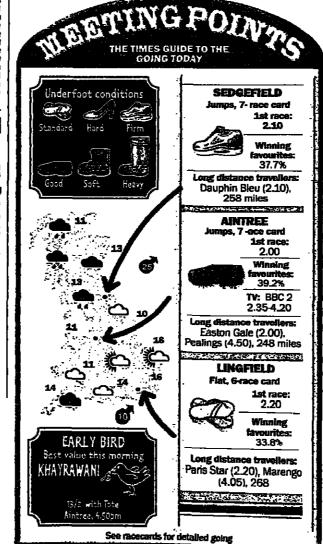
BETTING: 5-1 Cits D'Estroval, 7-1 The Quitack Way, 10-1 Lutton Rocks, Mattie, Rybana, 12-1 Maline De Musque, Linden's Lotto 14-1 Moyan, Wayward King, Even Flow, Santa Concerto, 16-1 others. 1998. CYFOR MALTA 5-11-1 A P McCoy (7-2 tav) M Pipe 22 ran

1998. CYFOR MALTA 5-11-1 A P McCov (7-2 kev) M Pipe 22 ran
Ballytine ran the race of his life in this context last year when
finding only Cyfor Malta too strong (Linden's Lotto was
pulled up and Arver Unshion let). He will run off a 7th lower
mark here and ought to give another bold show MAHLER, one of last season's top novices, has yet to
sparkle this lerm but he comes here hersh and it is worth taking a gamble that these lences, will revive
the entoussasm of his bold jumper. He has dropped 14th in the handcare this term, yet it is tothe more
than a year ago that he intersed a close thard to Cyfor Malta (received 9th) in the Campart Chase at
Chettenham. Gris D'Estruval was let down by this jumping in the Arkia Chase last time but he will have
more time to measure his lences over this trip and is larly breaded. Linton Rocks is something of a
bridle merchant but he did nothing wrong at Sandown last time and makes more appeal than The
Outflack Way, who had a hand race behind Majadou last morth. Even Flow has had a suitably lighth
campaign but looks handcapped up to its best bestiny Calls on a weak race at Newbory last time
while Santa Concerto seems to reserve his best for Ayr. This trip might stretch Monyman white it may
be irradequate for Noyan. Rythane files to come from off the pace and will need tuck in nunning

4.20 BELLE EPOQUE SEFTON NOVICES HURDLE (Grade I: £23,800: 3m 110yd) (16 runners)

BETTING: 5-2 King's Road, 6-1 Stermon Galo, 7-1 Lord Noelle, 8-1 Tempestoous Lady, 10-1 Ballyscyos, 12-1 Door To Door, Rocado Storm Of Gold, 14-1 gates, 1998: UNSBAKABLE BOXER 9-11-4 A P McCoy (10-11 fav) M Pipe 12 ran KING'S ROAD, a very useful tumper horse lest season when winning at this meeting and at the Purchestown Festival, has proved well suited by a test of stamum since making the sun-Albance Hurdle (2m 5f) at Cheltenham. Today's longer trip should and his cause. Shannon Gale appeals as the mean threat. He went close to jushfying strong market support when 7'-4 fourth of 24 to Generosa in the Status Casino Handicap (3m 2f) and is sure to be staying on at the finish. Badlysicyos, file-1 lifting of 28 to Katowo in the Torumb hurdle is one for whom the trip could now a repotern.

corrected in the Seaus Casino Handicap (3m 2f) and is sure to be staying on at the finish. Ballysicyos, 161-1 lifth of 23 to Katavio in the Triumph Hudde, is one to whom the trip could pose a problem, while Lord Medie, McHatte, Aluscast Saleg, Piccer Place, Rocardo, Santabless and Storm Of Gold have all yet to prove their effectiveness over three miles. Tempestuous Lady kept on garnely when bearing Damp Course 21 at Sandown (2m 6t) in February and could not into a place. **COURSE SPECIALISTS** Wins Rins
5 17
6 26
14 61
3 14
14 89
9 58
3 24
3 27
3 35 TRAINERS Infancha F Easterby J Howard Johason D Michelson G Balcon M Pipe N Twiston-Davies P Nicholis P Hobbs Ms M Revoley M Hammond A McCay
A McCay
A Domison
P Carberry
B Johnson
C F Swan
C Hewelyo
C O'Dwyle
N Watametor
G Bradley 29 4 23 1 23 0 21 4 15 7 15 5 12 5 11 1 11 1 8 3



TOMORROW'S BIG RACE

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL CHASE (£245,588; 4m 4f) (32 runners)



BETTINKS: 4-1 Double Tarille, 6-1 Call & A Day, 8-1 Eurise, Addington Boy, 10-1 Fidding The Facts. Suny Bay, General Wolfe, Nahitnen Lad, 16-1 Bernnet, 20-1 Bobbyjo, Kendal Cavelle, 25-1 olbers 1998: EARTH SUMMIT 10-10-5 C Liewellyn (7-1 tav) N Twiston-Dawes, 37 ran

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Going: good to soft Going good to soft 2.00 pm (CODw-yer, 6-4 lay), 2. Greciam Dart (M.A. Frizger-ald, 13-2), 3. Piped Aboard (A.P. McCoy, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Lord Lamb, 15-2. Arctic Fancy (Stht., 9 Basman, 40 Heart (4th, 50 Brillian) Star, 66 Shander A Azam (6th). 9 ran: 41, 314, 51, 51, 314. C. Roche at Curragh, Co. Kitcher, tole, 52:10, 51:20. 51:90, 52:20. DE: 55.50. CSF 59:50. 2.35 (3m if ch) 1, MACGEORGE (A Maguire, 11-1), 2, Escarterigue (R Johnson, 9-4); 3, Dr Leunt (R Durwoody, 12-1) ALSO RAN: 13-8 Iav Majodou (5th), 3 Go Bahstic (4th) 5 ran, 13-1, 11, 11, 23-8 I.Lee at Prestagner 104: 110-12, 20, 11-60 DE: 103.01 CSE 102.01

DF: E9.50 CSF. E32 78
2.10 (2m ch) 1, FLAGSHIP UBERALLES
(JTezard, 5-2)-l-av. Timelkeeper's top rating), 2, Grimes IC O'Doyre, 8-1), 3, Dawn
Leeder IT J Murphy, 5-2 (1-lav) ALSO RAN
100-30 Tresor De Ma (5th), 11 Cilhon Beat
(4th), 33 Carus Star (6th), 65 Darnza, 7 can
9), hd, 5, 151, 131 P. Nicholls at Shepton Majlet, Tote: 13.20, C1 90, 52.40 DF: 13.80
CSF £14.25

DF: £9.50 CSF, £32.78

CSF £14.25

3.45 (2m 61 ch) 1. ELEGANT LORD (Mr P Fenton, 7-4 tan), 2. Mety Moss (Mr A Dempsey, 11-2), 3. Kibreet (Mr R Formstal, 20-1) ALSO RAN 7-1 Rough Quest, 9 Formal Invision, 14 Whale of A Ninght, 16 Gale Toi, 20 Charmer's Well, Idonic, 44th, 25 Mr Boston (5th), 33 Courl Master (6th), 25 Mr Boston (5th), 33 Courl Master (6th), 25 Mr Boston (5th), 33 Courl Master (6th), 25 Bonge Calm Free Crazy Bishop, 50 Pontoon Bonge, Young Nimod, 100 Apple John, Austral Bibo Baggins, Fiscal Policy, Golden Savanneth, Sande of Gold, Tom's Germin Star Walls Court 23 tan NR Around The Hom 7, 13, 21, 161, 174 Enda Bolger at Ireland, Tole 52 90, 21 50, 22 80, 54 20 DF 53 30 CSF C7 99

4.28 (2m 110xd brite) 1. Hoos 1, A Cd III

LSF £7.99
4.20 (2m 110yd hdie) 1. HORS LA LOI III
(AP McCoy, 8-15 lav), 2. Afarad (C F Swan,
6-1), 3. Golden Rutie (R Durwoody, 11-1)
ALSO RAN, 6-1 Smpty Gifled (4h), 11 Tequia (5th) 65 Sharpalen (6h) 6 ran 314, 3,
314, 61, 681, M Pipe at Wellingion Tole
£1.50 £1.10, £1.90 DF, £2.50 CSF £4.62 E1 50 E1.10, E1 90 DF, £2.50 CSF £4 62 4.50 (2m 4) ch) 1, ROYAL PREDICA (A P-McCoy, 6-7), 2, Scratham Cross (R Mc-Graft, 8-1); 3, Managis (A Dobbin, 20-1) ALSO RAN 5-1 sav Foundry Larne (4ln), 13-2 Fourth in Line (5th), 7 Sad Mad Bad, 8 Society Briel (6th), 12 Heavers Above, Roy-al Tosst, Strong Tet, 25 Forrest Tribe, Nosam, 50 Charlie Footrol 13 ran NR Bal-lad Ministry, Dark Stranger 9, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 1-1, 9, M Pipe at Welfington Tote 19 70, 53 00, £2 20 £4 20 DF £24 60 CSF £45 48 Tin-cast D822 80

cast: 5822 80
5.20 (3m 110yd hdie) 1. PAPO KHARIS-MA IA Majoure. 12-1). 2. Derapour (C.F. Swan, 4-1 lav, 3. Nockstly (D. Gallogher, 16-1) ALSO RAN 9-2 Teachtal, 5 Lady Cockel (4th), 7 Meny Masquerack, 15-2 Wesley Wonder, 10 Appre Parther, Ganger Fox, 12 Pharanear (5th), 50 Chuchtjown Glen, Jazz Track, 100 E-atted (6th), 200 Oter River 14 mn. NR. Just Np. 1 14, 29, 19, 181, 101 P. Hobbs at Minehead Tote C13 90 53 00 02:10, C500 0F E31 20 Tote Trifecta. 23,051 90 CSF E56 81 Theast, C729 82 Jackpot: \$3,256.40. Jackpot: £3,236,40.
Placepot: £81.40. Quadpot: £23.30.

Taunton

Going: good to firm, firm in places Going: good to firm, firm in places
2.25 (3m 110)d high 1. Greenside Chat
(f. Aspell, 33-1); 2. Smuggler's Point (14-1),
3. Karerts Typhoon (14-1). The Minder (4th)
2-1 lav. 15 lan MR Eventeel Shild, 114 L
bace Tote 256 60; 08.90; 24.40; 25 60 DF
6362.20 CSF 6431 07 Tineast, 26,074 97
2.55 (3m 110yd ch) 1. High Gale (P Hide,
6-1), 2. Run For Cover (11-1); 3. Rosencramz
(7-3) North Killermy 9-4 fav. 10 ran NR: 564
Muser, 93. 3. Pilichols Tote 65:20; 62:30,
61 60; cl. 50 DF 626 60 CSF 636:29
3.30 (2m 11 hide) 1. Doublet (R Groene, 11-00, £1.50 DF £25.60 CSF-£63.29
2.30 (2m 11 hdte) 1, Doublet (R Groene, 6-1); 2, Rad (5-1), 3, Guido (6-1) The Gene Genie (6th) 11-8 (av 12 ran NR, Barren Lands, Party Romance 141 8t, M Pipe 7oe £7 40, £1 50, £2.00, £1 80 DF £7 70 CSF; £32 47

4.05 (2m 1) hole) 1, Here's To Howle (5 Wynne, 11-2) 2, Fuero Real (8-1) 2, Classic Masquerade (8-1) Mass Farra 4-6 tay 7 ran MR. Candle Smoke, Convell Cossad-Dare, Duel Island, I Wish You Love, Rise Above, Under The Thumb 191, 114 M Bos-ley Tote £4 50, £1 50 £2:20 DF £14 61 CSF, £43.82 CSF, £43.82
4.40 (3/tr.ch.) 1, Country Store (R Greene 7-4 fav) 2, Jultara (5-2), 3, Viccosa (8-1) 6 ran, NR, Absavard, Durrinchs View, Garmeri, Philatele, Wishing Wilson 114, 18. M Proc Tote £1.90, £1.10, £2.00 DF £3.10 CSF £5.57 Tricasi £23.64
5.10 (3/m cn.) 1, Buzz O'The Crowd (Mr R Woollacott, 9-2), 2, Mister Horatio (4-1) 3, Sull in Business (5-2 fav) 7 ran, NR Bets Wood, King Torus, Tandem 3, 3, Mrs. F Walker, Tote £9.20, £2.70, £3.00 DF £12.30 CSF £20.08
5.40 (2/m II hote) 1, Zhre Lane (L Corcoran,

\$12.50 USF \$20.09 \$.40 (2m II hole) 1. Zime Lane (L. Corcora. 12-1) 2. Spock And Span (everts fast.) 3. Eff-ing (11-1) 7 ram. NF Alamite Med. Dragon King, Nine O Three Hd. 141 Ian Williams Tole £15.70, 22-40, et 40. DF £11.50 USF £22.52 Tricas £128.77. Placepot: £5,428.20. Quadpot: £62.40.

Leicester

Saugg: 9300 2.15 (Im Brd) 1, Topatori (S Drowne, 9.2 Rob Wright's map); 2, Gaily Mil (11-4 km) 3, Scene (15-2) 14 ran 1-4, 2-4 M Tomb km; Tole E4 80: 21-00, 22.90, 22.40 IF 59:10 CSF £15.02, Tricast £87-92 2, Mil (512) sch. 8 Miller 1 (11-2) 2.45 (51218yd) 1, Mutaelddd (6 Hind, 8**) 2.45 (51218yd) 1, Mutaelddd (6 Hind, 8**) 2. Emma Peel (10-1), 3 Kaamen (7-1), Gur-ca Hunter (5th) 3-1 fav 9 ran, 193, shid 3 Gosden Tole (1130) 01280, 2260, 2310 DF (41.60 CSF £76.86 Dr. (21 60 C25 E78 85 3.20 (SI 218xd) 1 Golden Syrup (J Ourn. 14-1), 2 Spir The Aces (50-1), 3 Lady Carbins (9-1). Pulcoru 8-11 lav. 16 rat. Shift. I'V P Howling Tote E16 90, 64 00 529 50 12 30 DF 5967 90 CSF 5575.25 Ca. 30 DF 1290 (125) 1257-1257-125 2.55 (5) 2yd) 1, Phelsty (r. Fallon, 9-1) 2, Bod State (9-2) 3, Charming Lotte (20-1) Berkeley Dido 7-2 fav. 13 ran. Hd. (1 R. Johnson Houghton Toler 128 (1) 20 21-90, 125-50 DF 140-40 CSF 242-66 z 190, to tou UF 540 40 CSF 542 56 4-30 (1m 3) 183yd) 1, Toto Ceete (M H8s. 6-4 Iav), 2, Man of Courage (5-2; 3, Heph of Fantary (7-2) 10 ran 114, 314 B H8s Tote 52 70 51 10, 51 60, 51.90 DF 53 10 CSF 54 81

Total Carlot (196) Dr. 13 No. CSF 124 St. 15 No. CSF 124 St. 16 No. CS

Piecepot: £418.60. Quadpot: £53.00.





31.8 25.0 22.2 18.8 17.4 16.1 15.8 14.0 13.2

Irvine put

in his

place by

Ferrari

FROM KEVIN EASON

IN SÃO PAULO

FORMULA One's world

championship leader yester-

day faced up to the reality of

his quest for victory at the

Brazilian Grand Prix on

Sunday. Eddie Irvine admit-

ted that he would not be all-

lowed to win by overtaking

Michael Schumacher, his

team-mate. "I would be sacked

on the spot," Irvine said. "It

would be a breach of contract

That might seem a bleak assessment of his prospects after the Ulsterman's maiden

victory in the first race of this

season in Australia, but Irvine

believes Ferrari's mission to

win the world championship

with Schumacher has turned

to near obsession and could

not only be achieved at his ex-

pense. He also believes it

flaw in the battle against the

potentially powerful McLa-rens of Mika Hakkinen and

"I will still have to give way

even if I am leading and Michael is behind me," he

said. "Ferrari are only interest-

ed in winning the champion-ship with Michael. If they

don't this year, that will be

seen as a failure, even if I win five races. Making Michael

champion is the only target for

Ferrari and that is a big prob-

lem. McLaren don't have that

aim: they just want to win rac-

es. That puts a lot of pressure

Irvine's contractual deal

on Ferrari."

David Coulthard.

could become a dangerous

so it would be quite right."

Flagship Uberalles sets sail to keep Nicholls on course for title glory

By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

CHELTENHAM'S champions are frequently fallible when asked to peak again on the distinctly different terrain of Aintree but Flagship Uberalles was supremely yesterday, in confirming his stature as the leading two-mile novice chaser. It was an event that Paul Nicholls, his trainer, observed

at a distance of 200 miles. These are to be the defining three days in Nicholls' bid to dethrone Martin Pipe as champion trainer and if spending the first of them at his local Taunton meeting was a demonstration of confidence, his Arkle Chase winner justified it in full. The five-year-old stretched easily away from six opponents to win the Sandeman Maghull Novices Chase by nine lengths.

Pipe had shrunk his deficit in the title race by more than £30,000 with a treble at Ascot on Wednesday and had serious prospects of further progress early yesterday. As it transpired, he had to wait for Hors La Loi III to win the fifth race, and by then Nicholls had hanked another £32,725.

The comprehensive defeat of Majadou, in the Martell Cup, was followed by another disappointing run for Pipe by Tresor De Mai, runner-up in the Arkle but beaten out of

Carl Evans: 3.20 Hiltonstown Lass.

GOING. GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES)

2.10 Saucy Nun

2.45 Teme Valley

3.20 Mullingar

SEPREFED.

2.10 JOHN WADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

7-2 The Grey Bay, 5-1 Carol Agam, 6-1 Seiton Blake, 7-1 Harlmess Winnor, 10 Maremma, Real Fire, 12-1 Dauphin Bleu, Leafy Grove, Naraylar, 14-1 others.

5-1 Certainsalchoowell, 7-2 One Slop, 4-1 Erwy, 5-1 Jbn Masirah, 7-1 others.

3.20 STANLEY THOMPSON MEMORIAL HUNTERS

2.45 JOHN JOYCE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,358 2m 1f) (8)

CHASE (\$1,590: 3m 3f) (8)

(QUALIFIER) (£2,164: 2m 5f 110yd) (16 runners)

3.55 Owens Quest 4.30 Meldrum Park

5.00 The Gamboller

5.30 Andy's Lad

sight by his old rival here as Grimes and Dawn Leader led the unavailing pursuit of the 5-2 joint favourite.

Joe Tizzard, the 19-year-old jockey in whom Nicholls exhibits such faith, continues to repay him generously. There are days, he admits, when it is hard to absorb that he is riding high-profile winners in-stead of milking the cows on the family dairy farm. The statistics, however, show that this was his 71st of the season, leaving him only three short of the conditional jockey's record held by Tony McCoy.

Nicholls believes Tizzard will succeed McCoy as champion, so long as he can control the weight on his 6ft frame. For now, though, the priorities of both men are with Double Thriller, the Grand National favourite.

Emphatically though Flagship Überalles won, Tizzard's handling of him was composed and positive. Always travelling comfortably behind the two leaders, jumping fast and neatly, Flagship Uberalles quickened decisively off the final bend and kept up a relentless gallop to the line.

That was really impressive," Tizzard said. "The couple of horses in front really set the race up for me, it was just a question of when I took it up. I think he has improved again since Cheltenham and he will take a lot of beating next year." Trainers know better than

to worry prematurely about an embarrassment of riches in any department but Flagship Uberalles will theoretically be competing for the mature twomilers' championship now held by Nicholls' Call Equiname. This hugely impressive winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase reappears today in the Mumm Melling Chase, the race that will be darkly remembered for featuring the death of One Man a year ago.
The significance of Call

Equiname running here is threefold. It means his china legs have survived their Cheltenham exertions well, it offers Nicholls an outstanding pportunity to pocket another rich prize, and it is over half-amile farther than his specialist distance.

Nicholls believes it will suit him, and he goes further. "I read somewhere that this horse could certainly never win a Gold Cup. I thought that was a big statement. I have the King George in mind for him next season and I do think he could be a Gold Cup horse the following year. He'll win another Champion Chase first, though."

3.55 reg and ridley lamb memorial HANDICAP CHASE (£4,029: 2m 5f) (10)

1 25UP BRIGHTER SHADE 20 (F.G.S) Mrs M Reveley 9-12-0 _P Miven
2 0340 ROYAL MOUNTEROWNE 24 (T.D.G.S) Mizz M Routzed 11-11-12
A S South
3 31F- JURG BOX BILLY 329 (CD.F.G) Mrs J Brown 11-10-11 B Ferfator
4 2025 TATS CLOCK 38 (D.F.S) F Murphy 10-10-8. Mr J McNamara (S)
5 2322 THE TOASTER 192 (CD.F.G.S) Miss K Milligan 12-10-7
B McGrath

9 -44F KILDRUMMY CASTLE 54P (T.C.F.G.) J FiziGerald 7-10-0 G Lee 10 -0PO JOE JAGGER 22 (6) M Hammand 8-10-0 ... Mr R Fortistal (5) 3-1 Brighter Shade, 7-2 Tatis Clock, 4-1 Paraib, 11-2 Owens Obest, 8-1 The Toaster, 10-1 Royal Mountanowne, 12-1 Kildrusmity Casile, 14-1 others

4.30 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON COMCAST TEESSIDE NOVICES CHASE (£3,925: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 1203 AMILWCH 11 (D.G) J Barry 6-11-6 _______ S Keby (S)
2 1121 BARMBURGH BOY 18 (D.G.S) T Easteby S-11-3 ____ P Neven
3 2303 JDE SHAW 44 (6) Mr. M Revetey 6-11-0 _____ R McGrath
4 0700 JUDICIOUS CHARILE 61 J Artam 7-11-0 _____ Mr D Red (7)
5 46-0 JUST NEO 38 J Haldrare 8-11-0 _____ B Storay
6 3625 TRIONA'S NOPE 4 E Caine 10-11-0 _____ Mr D Fagain
7 2500 MELDRUM PARK 38 (f) F Halphy 6-10-9 Mr J P McGenzara (5)
8 POOU BROANGATE FLYER 11 (D.F) G Lamb 5-10-7 _____ J Buske 10-11 Equitorigh Boy, 7-4 Arctirich, 5-1 Joe Shaw, 20-1 others.

5.00 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELE WEST **NOVICES HURDLE** (Div I: £2,023: 2m 1l) (10)

1215 ES GO 38 (BF.C.S) A Bashuran 6-11-12 H Bast 2 P731 JARAAB 24 (F.O.S.) D Smith 8-11-5 H Bast 2 P731 JARAAB 24 (F.O.S.) D Smith 8-11-5 D S 7-4 Johly Manster, 9-4 Janash, 11-4 Es Go, 8-1 Limbeshy, 10-1 Witangel, 33-1 others

5.30 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELE WEST NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,023: 2m 1f) (10)

1 0012 ANDY'S LAD 104 (S) F Merphy 7-11-5. Mr J P McMarrara (S)
2 2300 UNDIN TOWN 20 (D) G) V Trocupson 5-11-5. Mr M Thompson
3 0-00 LORD OF THE LAND 128 Mrs D Saye F-11-0. L Cooper (7)
4 MOVING ARROW 32F Mrs M Revelly 8-11-0. L Cooper (7)
4 MOVING ARROW 32F Mrs M Revelly 8-11-0. B Featon
5 0-00 OTTERBURN LAD 118 Mrs J Brown 6-11-0. B Featon
6 -500 DISKY DANTE 68 J Client 5-10-9. B Surrey
7 0 ACADEMY 38 A Turnell 4-10-8. G Let
8 PS80 SMALT 10 (T) E W Tore 4-10-8. R Johnson
9 06 SUBGEST 14 W Surrey 4-10-8. R MisGrath
10 POP THE ACCOUNTANT 6 (T) Mrs K Lamb 4-10-8. J Burke 4-5 Andy's Lad, 7-4 Moving Arrow, 12-1 Similet, 16-1 Academy, 20-1 others.

TRAMERS: P Eccles, 4 witners from 12 numers, 33.2%, Mc: M Reveley, 53 from 218, 24.3%; J FiztGrade, 10 from 42, 23.8%; Mrs A Swindards, 7 from 32, 21.9%; D Smith, 15 from 69, 21.7%, F Murphy, 7 from 42, 16.7% JOCKEYS P Miven, 38 winners from 15.1 rdes. 24.8%; E Hechand, 8 from 34, 23.5%. G Lee. 17 horn 87, 19.5%. M H Naughton, 4 horn 23, 17.4%, J Supple 12 from 72, 16.7%. E Callaghan. 11 from 71, 15.5%

1 4621 DESE MARSHALL 4P (S) A Pennock 11-11-12

2 2-45 DROMRANA 2DP (F.G.S) Mrs R Wormall 9-11-12

3 2-12 HILTONSTOWN LASS 24 (C.G.S) I Warned 9-11-12

4 234P MULLINGAR 13P (F) Mrs S Bell 10-11-12

5 P4U4 SCRIGEANT MULLIARKEY 12P (B.T.S) John Can 11-11-12

6 12P. SYD GREEN 319 (F.G.S) A Walker (1-11-12 July 5 Walker (7)

7 FP24 THE MINISTER 13P (F) Mrs I Jackson 10-11-12

MSS T. Jackson (7) **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Aintree: 3.10 Carliste Bandio's Sedgefield: 3.55 Owens Quest

9 P-P1 POWDER PROM GP (T.S.) Nats J Barn 8-11-7 LMm N F Smith (5)

4-5 Hiltonstown Lass, 6-1 Daise Marshall, Ponder Prim, 10-1 others.

4.05 NIGEL KENT-LEMON MEMORIAL HANDICAP LINGFIELD PARK (£3,606: 6f) (10)

ROB WRIGHT 4.05 Ellway Prince 2.20 Direct Reaction 4.40 Kings Arrow 2.55 Little Italy 3.30 Son Of Snurge 5.10 Mister Tricky Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.20 KIRSCH (nap). 4.40 Kings Arrow. GOING, STANDARD DRAW 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 EBF TANDRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES /2-7-0: £3,022: 5t) (7 runners)

1.4 Diez Rescron 1.4 Paris Sto., 9-1 Matchellt Mawhem, 10-1 Blue Velver, Ka-nn 20-1 kageme, Timeless Chick

2.55 WATCH THE DERBY TRIAL FROM TRACKSIDE CARVERY MAIDEN STAKES (£3,539 6f) (6)

1 (3) -000 ARAB GOLD 18 M Outon 4-9-10 F Norton 41
2 (2) 53-0 JONATHAN'S CHR. 22 J Bridger 4-9-5 R Bristand (7) 52
3 (1) 000- DANNY POWER 195 T Barkof 3-8-12 A Nechols (5) 56
(6) 000- NORY POWER 195 T Barkof 3-8-12 A Nechols (5) 56
(4) 0 ELENIS 2 Natural Charles 187 Process 3-8-7 Dane O'Noli 5 (5) 50- LITTLE WALY 172 (85) / Lote 3-8-7 C Ruiter 58 4 (Funding Paris, 16.1) Section 3-1 (Funding Power, 10-1 Jornaffeen's Gul. 14-3 milests.

3.30 PHILIP HALL MEMORIAL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-7-0- £2,558, 1m 2f) (4)

4-5 Tellaw Publish. 7-2 Son Of Straig: 9-1 No Mercy 13-2 Saids. COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSES 7 Sprice 12 semests from 34 transes 35.3%. J Beny 29 from 141, 26.3% 29 Hills 15 nom 79 20.3%, M 4 Section. 3 from 17 17.6% at a Pentin 5 from 29 17 %, M Burnehard, 7 from 41, 17.1%. 100-575 h. Fysion, 27 connect from 103 rdcs, 35 2% J. Westers, 70 hom 170, 323 21 23 50 bendered 40 hom 155 26 57, 10 Medication, 30 hom 170, 323 21 25 8 Program 40 hom 156 16 19, 84 Hits, 9 hom 56, 16 19, 17 59, 31 Cochrone, 55 hom 351, 16 19, 84 Hits, 9 hom 56, 16 19.

7-2 Acid Test, 4-1 Soundan, 11-2 Mailta, Alizz 8-1 Spender, Marengo Time To Fly, 12-1 others

4.40 MALCOLM (MICK) GILLARD HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY' HANDICAP (\$2,659: 1m 2f) (14)

BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (12,659: 1m 2) (14)

1 (2) 1-41 CASTLES BURNING 38 (CD.F.) C Cyce 5-10-8 J Wesser 84

2 (1) 03-4 L DESTINO 109 (BF, C) P.P. Maten 4-9-12 A Clark 85

3 (12) 09-0 SEA SPOUSE 44 (C,5) M Branshad 8-9-10 . Date Ginson (87)

4 (6) 2005 KONES ARROW 38 (CD.) P. Howing 4-9-8 . S Whitworth 74

5 (13) 4220 NAWNSBAL HEIRY 38 (CD.) Mr. Revert 5-9-5 C Caree 73

6 (4) 1054 COMPRONTER 45 (CD.F.G.S.) 5 Dow 10-9-4 P Doe (3) 72

7 (14) 4006 BODMERSHAM PARK 13 P Felgat 7-9-4 ... 6 Partin 77

8 (11) 0030 WAASE 15 (C) Mrs. 6 Kollewty 6-9-3 ... K Fallon 56

9 (10) 3833 K (CHI SAEA 22 (B,C0) P Bugovne 7-9-1 ... T Onlina 83

10 (5) 1300 WITHOUT PRENOS 3 (N.C.F.G.S) Mrs. N Macaules 5-9-1

Dean McKeown 72

11 (3) -630 KAFL 8 (C) J Budger 5-8-13 ... Mrs. N Macaules 5-9-1

12 (7) 060- PRINCELY SPARK 207 (F) N Charc 4-8-8 J D Smath (3) ... 13 (9) 2030 OXBANE 15 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Brisland (7) 53

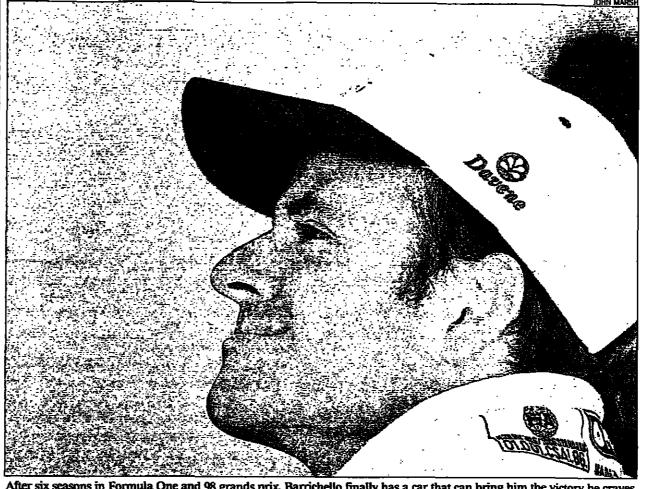
14 (9) -255 ZABRISKIE 22 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Brisland (7) 53 3-1 H Destino, 9-2 Caciles Burning, 6-1 Ki Chu Saga, 7-1 Kings Arrow, 10-1 Confronter, 13-1 Without Priends, 14-7 Wassel, Kaff, 16-1 cahers,

5.10 BRING YOUR FAMILY TO THE DERBY TRIAL MEETING HANDICAP (£2,558: 71) (6)

A HAZDES (1) LOVE, 7-2 Stoppes Brine, Litester Tracky, 5-1 Applicato, 6-1 Nobbe Water, 13-2 Motoberi

☐ Blue Cloud. André Fabre's highly-regarded Sagitta 1,000 Guineas entry, reappears in the Listed Prix Imprudence over seven furlongs at Maisons-Laffitte today. A 12-1 chance with Coral for the first fillies' Classic. Blue Cloud takes on five rivals including fellow Newmarket entrant Rangoon Ruby.

MOTOR RACING: HOME-TOWN DRIVER SEEKS FIRST CAREER VICTORY IN BRAZILIAN GRAND PRIX



After six seasons in Formula One and 98 grands prix, Barrichello finally has a car that can bring him the victory he craves

Barrichello turns the corner

ubens Barrichello is in a hurry, between planes, yet still desperate to make sure he does not let anyone down. The mobile phone is red hot as he dashes from Heathrow to his British outpost in Cambridge to pack, before going back to the airport for a plane home to Brazil.

This is a man devoted to his family back in São Paulo and any chance to get home is grabbed with both hands. He says be needs the equilibrium of his wife, Silvane, and family life to balance the occasional insanity of Formula One, a madness that almost broke his fledgeling career.

Barrichello seems a fixture in Formula One, with six seasons behind him and preparing to race this weekend in his 99th grand prix in front of his adoring home crowd, yet he is only 26 and is still to reach his prime as a driver.

That much was underlined in Melbourne, in the first race of this new season when, at last, he was piloting a Stewart Ford to reward his rich ability. A drive of determination and skill was overshadowed by Eddie Irvine's victory for noted that Barrichello was the fastest man on the track for much of the race. If he had not had to start in last position from the pitlane, after his car caught fire on the grid, and then serve a penalty, maybe that first victory would have put Ferrari noses out of joint.

There would be no more popular winner, for Barrichel-lo is one of the most pleasant personalities in motor racing; always cheerful, polite and willing to help. Even as he dashes for his plane, he remembers we are to meet and calls later to make sure

we don't miss each other. "Home is important to me," he said. 'Testing was cancelled so I can get to Brazil early. It will be a time to recharge the batteries and think about the race. So much is expected of me, and I want to do well for the Brazilian fans." It was partly that burden of

ROWING

Haining may benefit from withdrawals

SOME 400 scullers will race the Mortlake to Putney Scullers Head on Saturday, but they will not be led off by Greg Searle, the 1998 winner, who has withdrawn because of training problems (Mike Rosewell writes). Many of Britain's other leading performers have not entered this year. choosing to concentrate on the squad trials being held in Nottingham next week.

The benefactor could be Peter Haining, the former triple world sculls champion. Haining won in 1993, 1994 and 1996 and was fifth last year when not in great health. He is hoping for rough water "So that I can think the race rather than work it", and will also presumably be thinking of Niall O'Toole, the Irish former world champion, who won the race in 1995.

fan Watson, the 1998 runner-up, has also withdrawn. He has just recovered from injury and feels that the Scullers Head and the trials would be too much in one week. Haining also faces Guy Pooley and Giles Monnickendam, the two other men who beat him last year, and both start ahead of him on Saturday.

Kevin Eason believes the Brazilian driver is ready to fulfil his potential

expectation that almost broke him: His family home overlooks the Interlagos circuit and he had dived under the fence as a boy to watch races. His speed as a youthful kart driver took him on his way to follow the great Ayrton Senna in the rich lineage of Brazil-

ians in Formula One. When he entered Formula One in 1993 with Jordan. Senna nurtured his countryman. Little over a year later, Senna was dead. Barrichello had lost his mentor and ally, and also found that his nation expected him to replicate Senna's success, even though he had only been in the sport for a year.

The next 18 months were among the worst in his life as the results failed to materialise. "It was a terrible time. People forgot how young I was. In my second year, I was sixth in the world championship but then the sky fell on my head. Looking back, it taught me a lot, but at the time I felt I was falling apart."

Two things saved Barrichello: the support of his family and Jackie Stewart. The foundation of the new Stewart Ford team gave Barrichello a chance to start afresh, and Stewart, himself a three-times world champion, believed Barrichello had all the qualities for success. That belief was justified when, sensationally, the Brazilian took second place at Monaco in only the fourth race for the team.

Stewart said: "Rubens is a wonderful talent and he is such a nice man, too. He has it all to be a champion, but we need to provide him with a car

that will win championships." Which has been Barrichello's problem, because it was down-hill all the way after Monaco. Last year was dreadful for Barrichello and Stewart Ford as the team, lumbered with a temperamental car, struggled. In 16 races, Barrichello failed to finish ten times.

Out of the carnage, though, has come a revival. The new Stewart Ford appears capable of blasting every rival off the track, save for the McLarens. Formula One has been riveted by Barrichello's test times and he is revelling in the prospect of a maiden victory.

"In the bad days I had to ask myself what I was doing." he said. "The answer was that I was doing something I loved, so I have forgotten all of the bad things to concentrate on enjoying my driving. But there is no way I am going to stay in Formula One without winning. It is going to come, I have to be patient."

LINKS DN: ITV, tomorrow, 4.30pm, tive coverage of qualifying, Sunday, 5.30pm, live race coverage

with Ferrari, in exchange for £3 million a year, means he cannot overtake his German team-mate, no matter how tempting that might be, and he must get out of the way if Schumacher has a chance of victory. Even after the victory in Australia, Ferrari is unbend-ing on this fundamental point of principle and Jean Todi. the team manager, made it clear yesterday that answering questions on the subject was

The Ferraris are expected to be closer to the McLarens around the Interlagos circuit. but a three-way scrap between Hakkinen. Coulthard and Schumacher might allow Irvine to make headway.

now a "pain in the backside".

'Rubens has all the gifts to be a Formula One champion'

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan. Bridge correspondent Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 51 -Opening leads

After a long look at bidding we are moving on to the play of the cards, but we will start with defence. On average you will defend on haif the deals; you will be declarer on only a quarter. If you are going to enjoy bridge to the full, it is vital that you take an interest in defence. If you and your partner can exchange information about each other's hand you will soon find it easy to defend accurately. It all starts with the opening

We considered opening leads in some early Minibridge lessons, where we had the advantage of seeing dummy before making the opening lead. In bridge proper we don't have this disposal to select the best possible opening lead for us in defence. You may find it helpful in developing this skill to discipline yourself to thinking: (1) which suit should I lead? then (2) which card from that suit? help, so we have to work out how much information is at our

Which suit?

If you hold AKQJx or KQJl0x of a suit, it is usually right to start off with it more or less whatever it is and whatever the sequence. This does not happen often, however. More frequently you hold a modey collection of minor honours and need to choose a lead. If partner has bid a suit, it is usually a good idea to lead it.

Even if it is the wrong lead, it will keep him happy.

If no one has bid any suits (e.g. INT - 3NT), fourth highest of your longest and strongest is as good a rule as any (see Lesson 17).

If the enemy has bid some suits, this can be a great help. You will be leading through dummy's cards to your partner. with declarer playing last. So, while it is often a good idea to lead dummy's suit (lead through strength), you want to avoid leading a suit declarer has bid. It often works well to lead declarer's shortest suit, particularly when you think partner has length and strength there.

1 H 18 Pass Pass 3 C Pass 2 H All Pass 3 NT You would certainly not lead hearts. Dummy is likely to have

five spades and four clubs, making the latter more attractive most of the time. However, if you have, say, a small doubleton in spades, a lead of that suit (declarer's likely shortage) could work very well. Declarer will surely have a diamond stopper but will probably have fewer than four cards in the suit (he didn't rebid Two Diamonds over One Spade). Generally, choose a diamond or a club. Look at the texture of these suits in your hand and make your final decision.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MYLEX a. Transparent plastic b. A naval engagement c. A mild laxative

NUGGER a. A race-course trickster b. Hand on a drilling platform c. A river trading vessel

PURFLE a. To cheat b. To decorate c. To flavour

SOMNATH a. A sleeping draught b. A Holy City c. A wooden bar

Answers on page 49

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Southend

Over the Easter Weekend an imaginative tournament was held at Southend, which revived the knockout format which was the model for the inaugural international tourna-ment in London, 1851. With a 2,000 first prize at stake, grandmasters James Plaskett and Bogdan Lalic agreed to share top honours after a l-I tie in the final. Other prominent competitors were: Tony Miles, Jon Speelman, Murray Chandler, Chris Ward and John Emms. Here are two games by the co-winner. White: James Plaskett Black: Malcolm Pein

Redbus Knockout 1999

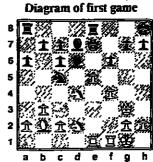
Ruy Lopez NI3 Be7 dxc6 Nd7 f6 0-0 d4 Nxd4 Bd6 0e3 0g3 e5 Black resign After 17 ... fxe5 18 fxe5 Bxe5 19 Rxe5 Qxe5 20 Rf8+ wins the black queen.

White: James Plaskett Black: Colin McNab Redbus Knockout 1999

Modern Defence d4 Nc3 o6 d5 ħЗ Nr3

Nx16+

Nd7 Nb6 Be6 Nc8 Nd6 Qa5 Rad8 h5 hxg4 b5 Bxe5 Nc4 Rd7 Rxd-4 Qd2 bxc4 Rvg4+ Qd4+ Qd2+ Qg1+ Qd4+ Öd2+ Black resigns



Keene online You can send me your queries,

puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 puzzles from Raymond Keene's daily column and is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

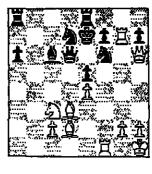
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Chapman - Chambers. Australia 1999.

How did White demolish the flimsy fortifications protecting the black king?

Solution on page 49



in Turin because United never

superb when he got going."

finish what we started."

could win the tie in Turin.

give in.

King tests Hendry's powers of

By PHIL YATES

resilience

STEPHEN HENDRY, who has been happier with his game of late, once again demonstrated his resilience under pressure during a 5-4 victory over Mark King in the British Open at Plymouth yesterday. When Hendry, who did not enjoy the best of fortune in the early stages, went 42 down. King appeared likely to cause the biggest upset of a tourna-ment which, generally, has followed the the formbook.

The six times world champion compiled a 100 break in the seventh frame, won a scrappy eighth, after King had squandered two good scoring chances and accounted for the decider in clinical fashion with a 137 total clearance, his 25th century of the scason.

Hendry, who rallied from 8-4 down to beat Stephen Lee 9-8 in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters 12 days ago, drew considerable satisfaction from his fightback. "It proves that my attitude is good and that I can do the business when I have to. That's always a good sign, especially at this time of year," Hendry, second favourite for the Embassy world champion-

ship, said. Quarter-final opposition for him will be supplied by Anthony Hamilton, the world No II, who put out Mark Williams, winner of the Irish. Welsh and Thailand Opens this season, by 5-4. Hamilton. who had a 134 total clearance in the second frame, was pulled back from 4-2 up to 4-4 and Williams led 36-0 in the decider, Hamilton replying with a run of 59 before potting the green for victory.

John Higgins, the holder, enjoyed a more straightforward passage. He was engaged for only 73 minutes in beating Michael Holt 5-1, after losing the first frame to a yellow to pink clearance.

Higgins, who has dropped only two frames in three matches, now meets Nick Walker or Brian Morgan while Fergal O'Brien, the 5-2 conqueror of Gary Wilkinson. knows that further progress could well seal his place among the top Io in the world

Oliver Holt says Juventus may regret their lack of ruthlessness

United draw comfort from escape

hey are drawn to Juventus like moths to a flame - seeking the light, seeking the secret and always forgetting what it feels like to get burnt. Manchester United have become embroiled in a curiously self-destructive flirtation with the Italian champions these past three years that bears all the hallmarks of unrequited love.

On Wednesday night we had been led to believe that the dynamic would change, that the admirers would become the admired, that United finally felt strong enough to stand up for themselves. Instead. when they went looking for approval, boasting about their new-found self-esteem, Juventus laughed in their faces.

In the first half, United watched helplessly as Juventus treated them to an exhibition in technique and possession football, just as they had two years ago, when they made United realise how far they had to travel before they had a chance of lifting club

football's greatest prize. In the end, English football was left clutching at those fa-miliar straws of persistence and effort as La Vecchia Signora meted out her punishment for the impudence of suggesting that she had slipped into her dotage.

In Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev suffered for their inexperience. too, as Bayern Munich twice clawed their way back from two-goal deficits to draw 3-3. The Germans, who have not lost a match for five months and lead the Bundesliga by 16 points, are not only favourites

Alen Boksic scored a 77th-minute

equaliser to earn Lazio a 1-1 draw against Lokomotiv Moscow in their

semi-final first leg yesterday. Zaza

Dzhanashia, who scored a hat-trick

in Lokomotiv's quarter-final victory

over Maccabi Haifa, had put the

minute when he went round Luca

Marchegiani, the Lazio goalkeeper.

Ruslan Nigmatullin, the Lokomotiv

goalkeeper, denied Dejan Stankovic

from close range with three minutes

■ Kevin Keegan is concerned about England playing a friendly against Hungary as FA Carling

Russian side ahead in the 61st

Lazio finished the stronger and

and finished on the turn.

European Cup Winners' Cup



to reach the European Cup final, they have also replaced United as favourites to win it. If there is hope for United for the second leg of their semi-final, in the Stadio Delle Alpi on April 21, it does not spring from anything that hap-pened at Old Trafford on Wednesday. There was nothing to suggest that United might be the equals of Juventus in Turin. The glimmer of encouragement comes from the fact that the complacency, almost the lethargy, that pervaded their performance,

from the laziness of their tactics to the carelessness of their passing and the overblown expectations of their supporters. has been banished.

Juventus came close to humiliating them. United know that better than anyone. Zinedine Zidane, hobbling around on one good leg, ran rings round them. Edgar Davids outfought Roy Keane. Didier Deschamps turned poor Paul Scholes into the Invisible

escape with a 1-1 draw.

lous," Ryan Giggs, whose lastminute equaliser cancelled out Antonio Conte's first-half goal. said. "Playing like that when he was not supposed to be fully fit was unbelievable. How can they say there was something wrong with him? He has got strength, experience and a great touch with both feet. He was nothing

short of magnificent." The only way in which Zidane and his team-mates erred is that they did not kill United off. They have benefited from generosity like that

themselves this season as they scrambled their way to this stage of the competition. They, more than anyone, know the pitfalls in the abandonment of ruthlessness. So if United have anything to cling on to, it is that their opponents filed on to their coach not full of elation but aching with regret.

We have not done enough to make sure we can get to the final," Davids said. "With English teams you only know you have won the contest when the whistle blows for the final time. It will be very hard for us

or Albans hoping for good luch to continue

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY KEITH PIKE

"Normally when Italian teams take the lead like we did WHEN the draw for the semithey lock the door and throw finals of the FA Umbro Tm. away the key. But this time we phy paired Cheltenham Town gave United the key back. We saw the real United in the secand Kingstonian together in a heavyweight duel, it may ond half. After half-time they have guaranteed that Wennplayed with more aggression going forward and Giggs bley would welcome warm favourites on May 15, whoever began to shine. He only really delivered the knockout blow. played for one half but he was It also ensured that one set of We will have to watch him underdogs would have their day at the Twin Towers. carefully in the second leg. We

The first legs tomorrow feaknow the tie is not over. Unitture a catchweight contest beed will have to come to Italy tween St Albans City and Forand do to us what we have just est Green Rovers at Clarence done to them. We will have to be very focused if we are to Park, where a team that had never reached even the last 32 Alex Ferguson, the United of non-league football's most glamorous competition hosts manager, was quick to launch one that stands three matches his damage-limitation act. Foraway from a place in non-league history. In 1982, Forest tified by United's 3-3 draw with Barcelona in the Nou Green, the unheralded club Camp, their 2-2 draw with Bayfrom deepest Gloucestershire. ern in the Olympic Stadium won the FA Vase, and no club and by the fact that they are still unbeaten in the European has managed to capture both pieces of silverware. Cup this season, he had a

St Albans, as the one memhunch, he said, that United ber of the quartet from outside the Nationwide Confer-His theory is not totally ence, are the clear outsiders. implausible. Juventus have but their run to the last four not played as they did at Old Trafford so far this season and suggests that Garry Hill's they may not play like it again. It is too risky a strategy for team has the Midas touch in the Trophy. The Ryman them to play for a goalless draw and if Yorke and Cole League side was 20 seconds from elimination by Ashton rediscover the rich vein of United in the fourth round, overcame Dagenham and Redbridge in the fifth despite form that deserted them, United can reasonably expect to playing half the match withmake a game of it. Next time. out a recognised goalkeeper, and snatched a last-minute they will know better than to expect Juventus to slip meekly winner against Boston United in the quarter-final through Tom Meredith, a full back New kit unveiled, page 3 who arrived at the ground

expecting to be dropped. "We will just go out and play to our strengths, but we know that Forest Green are firm favourites and that we can't afford even one or two people having an off-day," Hill said. A key man will be Steve Clark, 35, the striker who has scored nearly 300 goals in 437 games for them.

cheltenham, beaten twice in 16 games, the Trophy holders and with one hand on the Conference title, will be in good heart at Kingsmeadow. but if anyone is capable of plotting their defeat it is Geoff Chapple, the Kingstonian manager, who led Woking to three Wembley triumphs be three Wembley triumphs be-tween 1994 and 1997.

Man. United were lucky to "Zidane was absolutely fabu-**FOOTBALL IN BRIEF**

> team lost 1-0 to a 64th-minute Gaspard Kornol goal.In their opening match on Monday. England lost I-0 to the United States and are bottom of their group. Aston Villa confirmed yesterday

that they have applied for a place in the InterToto Cup. Although the competition has been maligned in recent years, it now provides another route into next season's Uefa Cup. Villa's move has been dictated by the new system of qualification introduced by Uefa.

Instead of the team that finishes in fifth place in the Premiership gaining entry to the Uefa Cup, that

place has been allocated to Newcastle United, the FA Cup semi-finalists.

■ Fabian De Freitas, the West Bromwich Albion striker, has been fined two weeks' wages for failing to turn up in time for the Bank Holiday defeat at Crewe Alexandra. Denis Šmith, the manager, said the player had apologised after thinking it was an evening kick-off.

■ Matt Jansen, the Blackburn Rovers forward, is not expected to play again this season because of injury. The England Under-21 player has suffered cartilage

damage in his knee and faces an

into subservience.

■ Roy Hodgson, the former Blackburn manager, could be named as the new Austria manager next week. If Otto Baric, the favourite for the position, declines the offer, Hodgson, who has coached Switzerland at international level, could yet succeed Herbert Prohaska, who was sacked by the Austria Football Federation.

■ Joe Royle, the Manchester City manager, will begin his attempts to sign Terry Cooke on a permanent deal today. Cooke has been on loan at City, from Manchester United. but the loan spell expires on April

leid Stods U



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Premiership clubs move into the

trophies. The England coach, who

leads the national team out against

Hungary on April 28, said: "I've got

my doubts about whether England

should be playing a friendly.
"They are all coming to the vital

stage of the season where they are

playing for massive prizes and we

England were facing an early exit

from the world youth championship after losing to Cameroon in their

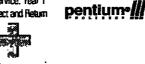
group E match in Kano, Nigeria yesterday. The England Under-20

say, 'well we'll take these four

players'. That's a difficult one."

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The fantasy results of Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix will be Silverstone published

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01 M Hakkinen 02 M Schumacher 05 A Zanardi 06 J Villeneur 07 E Irvine 41 106 10 J Alesi 11 J Herbert 153 08 O Panis **GROUP B DRIVERS** 12 R Schumact 16 R Zonta 17 Marc Gen 20 P Dick 22 L Badoer

GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS 23 McLaren

HOW TO ENTER

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from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the UK can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0640 67 88 88 (Irish Republic +44 870 901 4206). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team any time until roon on Thursday, April 29, 1999 to qualify for the start of the San Marino GP.

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RUGBY UNION: CENTRE'S RETURN FROM LEAGUE REWARDED WITH DEBUT AGAINST WALES

Mather breaks country code

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Continu

CLIVE WOODWARD began his term as England coach 17 months ago amid a flurry of newcomers and now harsh necessity is forcing his hand once more. Barrie-Jon Mather, the strapping Sale centre, will win his first cap against Wales at Wembley on Sunday after the withdrawal of Jeremy Guscott.

The route that Mather has followed to international rugby union is surely unique. He was an England schoolboy lock who crossed the divide to rugby league and won England and Great Britain honours as a forward and a back, before returning to union this season as the biggest centre in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division. At 6ft 6in and 16st 4Tb, Mather can even look down on Steve Hanley, the 6ft 4in wing and Mather's club colleague, who is making his debut.

Who can say what Mike Catt and Jonny Wilkinson, both under 6ft, will make of this land of giants, but it will be their responsibility to bring out the attributes of the newcomers against a side that will explore Mather and Hanley for weaknesses. primed by the inside knowledge provided by Shane Howarth, fly half for Sale but full back for Wales.

"It doesn't change the way we want to play the game," Woodward said, which could be taken one of two ways: either England can squeeze the Wales pack as much as possible, or they can stick to the fluid game that, with the exception of the first quarter against Scotland, has yet to reach full fruition.

Woodward, though, will not be averse to seeing how Mather handles himself, since the England coach still cannot be sure when, or indeed if, Will Greenwood will be

available in the centre this year. Mather provides the same physical dimensions as Greenwood without obviously possessing his silky hands. What he does have, in far greater measure than any of his colleagues, is experience of Wernbley. He has appeared there on three occasions, for Wigan in the 1994 Challenge Cup final against Leeds and twice for England during the 1995 World Cup, both



Mather, handed his first cap as a result of Guscott's withdrawal, trains with his England colleagues at Twickenham yesterday

times against Australia and on the

second occasion in the final. He was taught at Arnold School in Blackpool by John Bevan, the former Wales and British Isles wing, who himself went to rugby league and who is now one of the Welsh Rugby Union's technical directors. But Mather's family background is in league - a grandfather played for Wigan and his father, Tom, had trials — and despite interest from Welsh clubs, including Cardiff, it was to Wigan that he went as a teenager once he had concluded the 1991 England Schools season with a 13-10 defeat

by Wales in Colwyn Bay, in com-

pany with Matt Dawson and Richard Hill, colleagues on Sunday.

His career in that code included a three-year spell with Perth Reds in Australia. It was then that he watched on television as Dawson and Co played for the Lions in South Africa in 1997 and was tempted by the thought of joining them.

When his Super League contract ended, Sale moved in for him. He has been part of the England squad since the autumn and played in the A internationals against Scotland and Ireland this year before moving to the senior England bench against France last month. "It was a bit strange moving from second

row to centre, but I was happy to get my head out of the scrum," Mather said. Doing so brings him up against another former rugby league player on Sunday in Scott Gibbs, at a time when Sale prefer to use Jos Baxendell and Chris Yates in their starting XV.

"I have no problem with competition for places, although I think I'm good enough to start every week," Mather said. "I have been chatting to Jerry [Guscott] and I hope he can pass on a few tips for Sunday.

"I don't remember more than two minutes of the 1994 Challenge Cup final. It passed in a blur. The hardest part of coming back to

union was reading the game, knowing where the ball is likely to go, all the intricacies, because the game had changed so much since I played it as a schoolboy."

At least, though, Mather should fit into the defensive scheme of things, since that pattern has been woven by Phil Larder, the former rugby league coach with whom Mather has toured.



LINKS

Reid steps up to replace injured Peters

ONE man's misfortune is another tion to the replacements of Peter man's blessing and the hideous Walton. Pountney plays at open knee injury to Eric Peters has ena- side, allowing Martin Leslie to iart Reid to win his second cap for Scotland, against France in Paris tomorrow. Three years after his international debut in the 15-15 draw with Western Samoa, Reid has been recalled to fill a huge void

left by the absence of Peters Reid, the captain of Leeds Tykes in the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division, is one of three changes in the pack announced by Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, yesterday. Tom Smith's broken leg meant David Hilton was guaranteed to start at loose-head prop. but the one surprise is the inclusion of Budge Pountney in a reshuffled back row and the resultant demo-

Reid, who joined Leeds from Boroughmuir this season, said: "I am chuffed to bits, over the moon, every cliché you care to mention. I had never given up hope of playing for Scotland again, I'm just sorry that it's happened because of Eric's injury. He is a hard act to

Phil Davies, the Leeds coach, applauded Reid's promotion from the A team, which he has captained three times this season. "Stuart is a quick decision maker, very competitive and always gives 110 per cent," Davies said. "He never backs away from a challenge." In

FROM MARK SOUSTER

and under threat, such physical

attributes may come in useful. Telfer said Scotland were seeking extra mobility, which would be provided by playing two open-sides. "As the game is more open in France, it suits us to start that way. Stuart was the only specialist

No 8 in the squad." Scotland are obviously hoping to emulate Wales, who ran France off their feet a month ago, but the team has not exactly done badly with Walton in tow. With his suspect knee, the selectors might have thought that three games in a week for Newcastle had taken their toll

on Walton. In fact they have merely served to demonstrate his fitness. His one consolation is that some stage.

Although Scott Murray, the Bedford lock, has proved his fitness, Doddie Weir is travelling with the squad as cover; Andy Reed is the nominated second-row replacement should Murray have to withdraw at any stage.

Unsurprisingly, the selectors have rubber-stamped a back division that has been a revelation this year. Duncan Hodge's injury against Wales meant Gregor Townsend switched to his favoured fly half berth. With John Leslie outside him, Townsend has found a new lease of life at No i0.

"Most people would agree that the ability of the backs to move the ball and back each other up from deep "Gregor, John and Alan Taitl, are very good decision makers."

Ian McGeechan, with Scotland this week in his advisory coaching capacity, said: "Scotland have been as tactically sharp as any team in the Five Nations.

"John Leslie has created an environment in which Gregor can show what a class player he is. Gregor does things that John can read as well. So he brings him into the game in a more dynamic way. Alan is the same. They have been the best midfield in the championship. With the ball in play Scotland have looked a very good team."

England must resist calls to turn on style

f no small interest in the final Five Nations Championship match of the season at Wembley on Sunday is the manner in which England intend to play the game. Observers have commented critically on England's style of play, which has been, shall we say, less than pleasing on the eye. This is puzzling. Here are England on the threshold of winning a grand slam in the last Five Nations competition — Italy's presence will extend the championship to six next year yet there is a strong desire for something more intangible and capricious. Something called style, which we are meant to recognise when we see it.

In rugby union, as in much else, there are many styles. It depends on how you carry it. There was once what was, until recently, a recognisable All-Black style of control and discipline, the main design of which centred around the half-backs, the inside centre - or second five eighths as they prefer to call them - and the back-row forwards. It was an efficient machine.

Then there is the style that is distinctly French and which, on its day, is mobile, fluid and so utterly unpredictable that it is not centred around anything at all other than on every player's freedom to move. It can be inefficient, but it can also be spectacularly inspirational. There are other choices in between.

Given that the changes in the laws have altered significantly the rhythm and tempo They need

a plan B

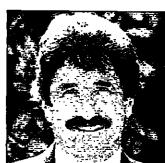
of present-day rugby, England's style, which is recognisably theirs, is closer in form to the former than it is to the latter. There is the same enviable efficiency, allied to composure and power.

plan A' Yet, while not expecting the same flamboyance, there is a wish to see from England the same seamless harmony that exists between the forwards and backs of the French. Those aspirations might not be realistic, however. It would

be the same as expecting a Twickenham crowd to turn up dressed in Armani suits and Gucci shoes, instead of the Barbours and brogues that are said to inhabit the West Stand. Style, after all, is The England team cannot be

anything other than what its members want it to be not what others would wish it to be. This is how they gain their confidence. To change according to others' wishes is to change for the wrong reasons. In this way, England were diverted in their task in 1991 when they failed to win the World Cup against Australia. England, in much the same circumstances as they are now, were taken in by the propaganda for change. This was a lesson that they thought they had learnt in time for the

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

World Cup four years later. It was the wrong lesson. They stuck inflexibly to their tactics throughout the competition and came a cropper against New Zealand who, in the semi-finals, had prepared a plan in which to disperse England's close-knit forward platoon. England had no reply.

The lesson they should have learnt is that a team must have the ability, given changed circumstances, to alter their mode of play. To put it simply, there should be a plan B to go with plan A and that each should evolve alongside the other. How often is it commented upon that in an effort to change the course of a match a team must, in rugby parlance. "throw the ball around". If a team is not happy doing so when it is in control of a game, how should it be expected to do so

when it is in a desperate position? Catch-up rugby of this sort rarely succeeds and only serves usually to make matters worse. to go with

England are playing a style with which they are wholly com-fortable. There is nothing wrong with this style, despite the dis-

content of others. After all, there are many who would be pleased with such a reputation. But it is, nonetheless, one in which there is an imbalance. The firepower is weighted too heavily through the forwards and the opposition is never likely to face attacking threats from various points, or kept guessing as to where the next threat is likely to come from.

England play to a firm struc-ure. Their defence and attack is tightly disciplined around those fringe areas where the patterns are predictable. Phil Larder's rugby league background is much in evidence in the defence of these areas. Any team wishing to overcome England will need to splinter this structure and unsettle the pattern in a way that Scotland almost did. Wales, at this

stage, may not be ready for it. To be sure, though, there will be teams who will be prepared at the World Cup in October. It is a dilemma that will preoccupy England. But first there is Wembley.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE Prisburgh 3 Montreef 4, Florida 0 New York Mets 6 Houston 2 Chrcago Cubs 9, Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 0, St Louis 4 Milwaukee 1, San Pritadepina 0, 15 Louis 4 winestunger 1, 2000 po 2 Colorado 1, Los Angeles 6 Anzona 4 Cincernata 3 San Francisco 8 Amiestican LEAGUE: Caluland 0 New York Yankees 4, Baltimore 5 Tampa Bay 8, Kansas City 0 Soston 6, Minnesota 5 Toronto 9, Tecas 10 Detroil 7, Anshem 1 Cleveland 8, Seattle 7 Cheago White Sox 3 BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 1/8 Wachington 87, Charlotte 1/06 New York & Deirox 89 Attams 82, Mismi 93 Delise 87, New Jersey 92 Philadelphia 95, Chicago 74 Indiana 91, Miswalise 99 Chevland 91, Phon-ox 90 Mismissola 82, Vancoluve 84 Denwer 87, Sacramento 89 Los Angeles Lakers 104,

CRICKET Coca-Cola Cuo India v Pakistan

SHARJAH (Pakistan won ross). Pakish beal India by 116 runs PAKISTAN rar run out duc Kumble b Prasad. Extras (b 5. lb 9. w 1. rb 2)

Total (8 wids, 50 overs) -Saciam Mushtaq and Shoalb Akhtar did FALL OF WICKETS, 1-11, 2-56, 3-94, 4-234. 5-272 6-279, 7-279, 8-279. BOWLING Smeath 10-1-44-1, Praead 10-0-69-3, rumble 10-0-31-1; Singh 8-0-43-0 Josh 9-0-56-0, Ganguly 3-0-20-0.

INDIA S Ramesh c Wasm b Shoarb. A Jadeja fow b Acher 0
R R Singh c Yousuf b Shehid 26
S B Joehi not out 38
1N R Morqui not out 22
Extras (b 4 w 5, nb 3) 12

Extras (b 4 w 5, nb 3) 183

not bat FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-42, 3-47, 4-47, 5-98, 8-108 5-96, 6-108 BOWLING. Wasm Akram 6-0-24-0; Shoaib Akhter 6-2-12-1, Azhar Mahmood 10-0-20-2; Saqian Muzhtaq 10-1-37-1; Arshad Khan 10-0-31-0, Shahid Ahdi 6-0-35-2 Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and I D Robinson (Zimbabwe).

ST JOHN, New Brunswick World champlonships: Nam: Seventh round: Carada 11 Dennerk 4; Unsted States 8 Norway 7, Scotland 6 New Zestand 5; Fritand 7 Sweden 4. Switzerland 5 Germany 4. Eighth round: New Zestand 4 Finjand 7, Sweden 8 Scotland 8; Germany 9 Denmark 1; Switzerland 4 United States 11 Positions: 1, Canada 7 wins 1 loss, equal 2, Norway, Scotland and United States 5-3, equal 5, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Switzerland 4-9, Nowed, Scotland 4-9, Sweden 12 Denmark, Semany 8 Canada 5, United States 6-Norway 7; Japan 10 Scotland 2. Positions: 1, Sweden 7-1: 2, Limited States 6-Norway 7; Japan 10 Scotland 2. Positions: 1, Sweden 7-1: 2, Limited States, Norway 9-2: 4, Denmark 5-3, equal 5, Germany, Switzerland 4-4, 7, Canada, Firland 3-5; 9, Japan 2-6, 10, Scotland 0-8

CYCLING GHENT-WEVEL GENI CLASSIC (210km) 1.

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5, R Varisteins (Lat, Vin Cedifolia); 6, J Stoos (Lat, Home Jack and Jones) all at same time.
TOUR OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY.
Fearth log (197km); 1, K Moerenhout (Nert, Rebotten); 5tr 22min 17sec; 2, F Secthant (N. Saco); 3, D de Paoli (Amea Chips, I) both at 28sec; 4, G Flouenes (It. Mapei), 5, U Bots (Ger, Telekom); 6, G Verheyen (Bel, Lotton); 1mm 32sec. Leading overall positions:
1, L Jelabert (Fr, ONCE) 18tr 37min 55sec.
2, D Rebellin (It. Polit) at same time, 3, B Fernandez (Sp, Euskatel), 21sec. Cup Winners' Cup Semi-final, first lea

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finale, first log: Dynamo Kiev 3 Bayem Munich 3, Manches-ter United 1 Javentus 1

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY Embouseurt CHALL ENIGE TROPHT: Semi-finet: Famborough 2 Cheltentern 0 UNRECAD LEAGINE: Premier division: Altrachem 1 Leigh RMI 0; Bishop Aucktand 3 Stalyholog 3; Guiseley 3 Frostley 0 First division: Great Hentrood 2 Fersley Cetic 0, Huckred 0 Witton 1: Metlock Town 2 Whitley Bey 3

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2, Solitusii Borough 1 Stourtundge 1: Sutton
Cotifield Town 1 Shepshad Dynamo 0.
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Romlord 0 Wealdstone 4. Second division:
Banstead 1 Hungerhord 1. Third division:
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Ham 0 Ipsauch 4: Wimbledon 3 Swindon 0 Wycombe 1 Northempton 1.
Promnar's LEAGUE: Premier division: Backburn 5 Presion 1; Leack 3 Aston Villa 4: First division: Serefield Wed 1 Middlesbrough 0, Second division: Blackpool 1 Steffield Utd 2; Lincoin 2 York 1. Scarborough 3 Weshem 1; Simewsbury 3 Notis Co 0 Tolind division: Bury 9 Cartisle 9. Chesterfield 1 Huf 1; Rochdele 2 Darlington 1, Walsall 2 Hallax 1, Wigan 6 Chester 0 FA WOMEN'S PREMER LEAGUE: National division: Liverpool 5 Transvere

FA. WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Berkhamsled 3 Coventry 0 Southern division: Werbledon 3 Langlord 2.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: Prat division: Barogham 2 Shidon 2: Newcaste Blue Star 3 Morpeth 2.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Moneyfields 0 Lymington and New Miston 3.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Stidin round: Wiroledon 0 Coventry 3 Revised aemi-final draw (two legs. tirst team at home in linst leg): West Harn United v Everton, Nothingham Forest or Newcastle United v Coventry City.

v Coventry City
PGFA WORLD YOUTH CUP: Group A (in
Lagos). Costa Rica 1 Paraguay 3 Group B
(in Kaduma): Croabe 5 Kazakhstan 1
Group C (in Ibadan); Indand 2 Saudi Araba 0 Group D (in Enugu): Unuguay:
South Korea 0 Group B (in Kano) Cariteroon 1 England 0. Group F (in Calabar)
Spain 0 Zemba 0

SANDWICH: National Hewite Cup: First round: Malvern 4 Bishop's Stortland 1. Wellingborough 3 Loretto 2: Westmenster 3 King's. Carnerbury 2: Helpingbar 34: Belghton 19t; Lancing 39: Framiningham 19t, Dulwich 49: Stortland 9: Report 315: Carnerd 19t; Repton 3 Radiey 2, Braditald 5 City of London 0; Charteshouse 4 Downside 1; Wassons 34: Wellington 19t; Mill Hill 3 Taunton 2; Merchiston 4 Gresham's 1: Epon 4 Marborough 1; Royel 5 George's Feitzes 4 Trent 1; Halleybury 5 King Edward 9, Brimingham 0 Harmow 39: Liverpool 19t; Cheltenham 34: Rugby 19t; Torbridge 4 Berkhamsted 1; Forest 3 Rossell 2: Feisted 3 Adembars 2: Chignell 3 Bectlord 2; Sharborne 3; Shrewsbury 2: Ouncle 4 Eastbourne 1; Cafon 3 Si Paul's 2: Glenelmond 5 Hurstperpoint 0.

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 2 Carolina 0, Washington 2 St Louis 4, Detrot 6 Vancouver 1. Florida 2 Boston 5; Toronto 4 Cineva 2. Dallas 5 Anahem 1; Colorado 4

RUGBY LEAGUE JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Huddersfield 14 Castlelord 94

RUGBY UNION ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Certifi 42 Sate 5 WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Cross Keys 12 Bonymaen 35

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 4e (Hong Kong to Singapore, with miles to first) 1, Chrysofile (1 Hedges) 465, 2, Memerus (8 Solitars) 499, 3, Antiope (K Har-ns) 508, 4, Ariel (A Thomson) 509, equal 5, Serica (R Deam) and Teapong (IN Flaming) 511, 7, Thermopylae (M Tod) 527, GRAFHARI WATER, Carabin logications Vol-vo RYA youth nettomal champtons hips (at GRAFHAM WATER, Creabridgeshire: Vol-vo RYA youth national champlonelipe (ai-ter lourit day). 420 men (alter eight races, one discard) 1, R Watson and M Elis 29pts; 2, N Belves and J Cation 34, 3, I Martin and C Martin 41 420 women (alter eight races, one decard): 1, N Berres and J Martinal 94, 2, C Bassadone and H Mayhew 97, 3, H Brown and J Soot 10 Lawer (after eight races, one desard): 1, A Commander 22; 2, M Howard 22, 3, B Fhodes 28, Laser radial men (after eight races, one discard): 1, J Smith 34, 2, T Hules 33, 3, P Griffiths 38, Laser radial wom-as (after eight races, one discard): 1, B Hot 118; 2, K Archer 156; 3, N Lloyd 271

TIGNES, France British Land junior and children's national championships: Children's stations: Overall girls: 1, K Head (DHO Sic Club/Cidord) Irim 24 43ec; 2, S Bream (Kandahar Sic Club/Tin y Gross, Corwy) 127 10: 3, R Traves (Aberdeen Sic Club/Glasgow) 127:35 Children one (year of birth 1988-87)* 1, P Thorbum (Aberdeen Sic Club/Straffinen I .31:30, 2, R O'Neil (Sandown Park, Racing Club/Citatham) 1:32:83, 3, E Taytor (DHO/Worskop) 1:35:97 Overall boys: 1, J Renhe (Aberdeen Sic Club/Edriburgh) 1:26:7, 2, P Wilson (DHO/Champer, Switz) 1:13:00, 3, I Hurti (Show Club/St Albars) 1:14:64 Children one (year of birth 1986-87). 1, E Drake (Kandahar/Kingston-upon-Thames) 1:17:16, 2, F Clough (Snow Club/Chams-

SNOOKER PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS: British Oper: Second round: G Wilkinson (Eng.) bi N Dohary (fre) 5-4, J Parror (Eng.) bi J White Eng.) 5-4. S Hendry (Soci) bi G Dott (Soci) 5-2. A Harnston (Eng.) bi P Huntler (Eng.) 5-4. J Miche (Eng.) bi M Campbell (Soci) 5-2. Third round: S Hendry (Soci) bi M King (Eng.) 5-4; Hernston bi M Williams (Wales) 5-4. J Higgins (Soci) bi M Holt (Eng.) 5-1; F O'Brien (fre) bi Williamson 5-2.

ESTORYL OPEN: Men: Second round: G Kuerlen (Br) bi J Novak (Cz) 6-3, 8-4. T Martin (LIS) bi N Marques (Por) 7-5, 6-3, M Flos (Citile) bi A Portae (Sp) 6-3, 6-3, F Meligen (Br) bi H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 6-2 Women: Second round: L Bacthere (Bull) bi E Wagner (Ber) 7-5, 6-3; C Torrans Valero (Sp) bi S Piklowski (Fr) 6-4, 6-1, S Tastas (Cro) bi L Cervanova (Slovakta) 6-3, 6-2, K Stebonik. (Slovakta) 6-3, 6-2, K Stebonik. (Slovakta) bi J Ake (Ger) 5-7, 8-4, 6-2. AMRILA (SLAND, Floridae WTA Bausch and Lomb champtonship: Second

6-0, 6-0, C Ruben (US) bt K Brandi (US) 6-1, 6-3.

HONG KONG OPEN: Second round: B Becker (Ger) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-4, 7-6. B Karbacher (Ger) bt B Steven (NC) 6-4, 8-0, J Bjorfsman (Swe) bt G Mohormura (Japan) 6-2, 6-4, L Teleman (In) bt C Memili (US) 6-3, 6-4; N Kieler (Ger) bt P Sichaphan (Thei) 6-7, 6-4; H Dreekmann (Ger) bi M Chang (US) 3-6, 7-6, 8-4, A Agassi (US) bt O Grose (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; R Ivrapock Nieth) bi K Carlsan (Den) 7-5, 7-6

MADRAS: Indian Open: First round: C Moyà (SD) bt V Volchlow (Beis) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, B Black (Zim) bt G Carraz (Fr) 6-1, 6-3, 6-1; K Kubera (Slovalsa) bt M Kohmann (Ger) 7-5, 6-1, S Sangsian (Mm) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-4, 3-0 nd.

TELFORD: Under-16 mational champlon-shipe: Boye: Sensi-finals: B Riby (Yorks) bt B Archer-Clowes (Warwecks) 6-2, 6-3, M Smith (Chashire) bt A Barks (Yorks) 7-6, 6-1, Girte: Sensi-finals: J Smith (Surrey) bt G Gallacha (Scot) 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, K Vymetal (Surrey) bt J O'Donoghue (Lancs) 6-4, 6-2

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

SOMNATH (b) A holy place in India

MYLEX (b) in 36 BC the Pompeian fleet under Sextus Pompeius encoun-tered the fleet of the Triumviri under Agrippa. The Pompeians were deleated. NUGGER

(c) The traditional trading vessel in the lower reaches of the Nile. (b) To border or decorate with a wrought or ornamental border.

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Reckless Tiger fails to see the woods for the trees

t was quite a group setting out at 10.38 yesterday morning at Augusta. Tiger Woods, Sergio Garcia and a young man called Tim Herron, who everyone referred to as Lumpy. I have to admit I was unacquainted with Lumpy, and was rather startled to see chaps on the course wearing "Lumpy" baseball caps. Personally, I would hate to be known as Lumpy. but I suppose there are different ways of looking at things when you can do the front nine at Augusta in a very respectable par 36. Especially, I assume, when alongside you. Tiger Woods is taking 38, and the sun is so hot that shots into the shade of the pines look a lot more tempting than they

Woods famously took 40 on the front nine in his Masterswinning year of 1997; the shock of it impelled him to greater exertions. So it was no matter for alarm when the first few holes vesterday found him following up his birdiethree on the first with a par five and then a bogey-five on the third. Perhaps the famous

Tiger-proofing of Augusta had been successful - although, come to think of it, redesigning a course just to foil one player seems a bit vindictive really. The way it's generally discussed. Augusta moved some teeboxes back, added bunkers and everything, just to make one particular man's life a bit more difficult.

Anyway, the Tigermania crowd that usually cheers Tiger every inch of the way, and murmurs significantly when he adjusts his baseball cap or wipes his nose, was likewise determined not to peak too soon. So, apart from muttering respectfully "Split the fair-way in half!" or "That was an iron shot!" they were biding their time, endlessly reminding each other who Garcia was. and waving Lumpy!" whenever the Herron chap went by.

What the experts always want to know is how Tiger will handle the par-fives. And well. vesterday, for the first half of his round, it wasn't great, I can tell you because I was toiling around the course under a fierce sun, keeping him in sight, and saying: "My, it's so ho-ot", like something out of Tennessee Williams. A tiger, a kid and a person famous for their lumps — it's just not a combination that you come across every day. Anyway, on the pink dogwood second hole where Herron efficiently birdied - Tiger found himself with a chance of a birdie, but only if he could putt successful-

ZAFIRA. A work of genius.



At Augusta

ly long, uphill and breaking left, "He always goes for the hero shot," someone said nearby, as the putt rolled on past the hole. "Believing he can do any shot is his strength, but it's also his weakness."

And the description turned out to be prophetic, because on the 8th hole - a 550-yard uphill hole with a green cut off from view by the horizon -Woods teed off into the pine trees on the left of

'Believing

he can do

any shot

is his

strength

...and his

weakness'

the fairway and as the ball made a sickening "crack!". he dropped momentarily through the time-space continuum. It was alarming, I can tell

It was also so hot out on the course by now that usually well-organised people, who had stupidly left all their money in the press room (i mean

me) were forgetting to be Blanche Dubois any more and just begging at the concession stands for a bit of ice to suck

In short, I was pink, footsore and delirious, and to see Woods disappear from the action was a bit too like a nightmare. "Hope he doesn't go for the hero shot." I said to myself. staggering slightly, at which point "crack!" - he hit the trees again, and his ball ricocheted deeper into the greenery. "He should have taken a

EARLY SCORES TEE TIMES FOR TODAY

" denotes an amateur

United States unless stated

69: 6 Chamblee, D Love 70: C Montgomerie (GB), J M Olazabal (Sp), J Leonard 71: S Pate, R Estes, A Lyle (GB). 72: C Stadler, J Daly, W Glasson 73: R Mediate, T Lehman 74: O Browne, G Hjertstedt (Swe), R Floyd, J Huston 75: S Hoch, C Pavin, C Parry (Aus) 77: S Jones 78: S Verplank, S Maruyama (Japan)

A car With 7 seets that's easy to park.

I wonder what that looks like? Call now to find out.

0345400800

80: G Brewer

86: B Casper

mystery what he was trying to "Tiger blew up?" they asked.

Woods has plenty to chew on after recording a triple-bogey eight at the par-five 8th hole

drop," people were whispering around me, and after a great deal of kerfuffle, a drop is what he duly took. He ended up with a triple-bogey eight. and his supporters exchanged significant glances as they looked in disbelief at the score-

13.15; G Player (SA), "T Immelman (SA), S Stricker

13.26: B Crenshaw, " T McKnight, L Roberts 13.37: S Ballesteros (Sp.), H Sutton.

W Mayter 13.48: J Maggert, V Singh (Fiji), P Stewart 13.59: N Faldo (GB), B Warts, J Durant 14.10: F Zeeler, M Ozals (Japan), F Fudit 44.21: A Pariner, *J Miller, W Wood 14.32: B Langer (Gar), M Calcavecchia D Clarke (FS)

D Clarke (GB) 14.43: P Mickelson, G Norman (Aus), J Parnevik (Swe)

J Parnewik (Swe)
14.54: L Janzen, J Cook, F Lickfeer
15.05: J Haad, W Andrada, T Bjorn (Den)
15.16: M O'Meara, " H Kuehne.
L Westwood (GB)
15.27: O Dusul, N Proce (Zm), R Tway
15.38: C Coody B Jobe
Put Inhapseon (Sur)

Glancing at my idiot's guide to the course, I noted that the long hitter on the eighth is recommended to drive the ball 'past or over" the fairway bunker on the right. But Tiger wasn't playing the long hitter role yesterday. In fact, it was a

15.49: M Brooks, S Crik, D Torns 16.00: P Azinger, J Furyk, G Day 18.11: W Casper, G Brewer, D Ford 16.22: S Pate S Hoch, R Estes 16.33: J Daly, G Hjenstadt, Swel, O Browne 16.44: A Lyle (GB), C Payn, S Verplank 16.56: C Stardier, C Parry (Aud), R Mediate 17.06: R Floyd, C Montgomerie (GB), S. Inos:

S Jones 17,17: J M Otazábal (Sp). W Glasson

J Huston 17.50: F Couples S Elengton (Aus).

The birdies started again for Woods, thank goodness, on the inward nine, but unfortunately by then I was lying under a bush, trying to cool down with an ice-pack on my head, so I didn't see it. Garcia, who had started his

round badly with two bogeys and had scored 39 on the front nine, finally started birdying too. I hope his head came up at that point: he looked tense and somehow embarrassed when ! was watching him, as his shots zigzagged the fairways in the manner once memorably described by P.G. Wodehouse as like a liner pursued by submarines.



BBC1, 10,20pm.

S McCarron 18.01: B Favon, J P Hayes, T Dodds (Nem) 18.12: T Watson, * M Kuchar, S Applisby (Aus) 18,23: I Woosnam (GB), P Spiland (Swe), A Mages 18.34: T Woods, "S Garcia (Sp) T Herror 18.45: L Mice. C Franco (Par), J Slumen 18.56: T Aaron, M A Jiménez (Sp), C Peny

Sparkling Andrews

THERE were easy victories and close victories in the first round of the Halford Hewitt Cup vesterday, but none was narrower than the margin by which Repton defeated Radley. With the match score standing at 2-2, the final foursome went into extra time. and sudden-death did not befall Radley until the 23rd hole of the contest.

Repton, who have not won this annual team matchplay tournament of the Public Schools Golfing Society since 1986, were represented in the crucial match by Keith Andrews and Douglas Campbell, their captain, and. Andrews it was who sank the winning putt on the 5th.

It was from no more than 6ft, though by the time the tale had been retold a few times in the Royal Cinque Ports clubhouse the distance was probably closer to twice that: golfers are like anglers in their pre-disposition to romantic exaggeration.

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawry, Music includes a Faure barcarolle performed by pranist Jean-Philippe Collard

9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Wolf (Italian Serenade); Purcell (Te deum In D. 2232); Tchakovsky, arr Glazunov (Meditation Scherzo, Souvenir d'un fieu cher), Beethoven (Veriations on a Waitz by Diabelli, Op 120)

10.30 Artist of the Weelc John Tomfinson

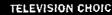
11.00 Sound Stories Cathedrats See Choice

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Britten (r)

1.00pra The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Chris de Souza presents a recital oven at last year's Bath Malvern, three times the beaten finalists in the Nineties, had a 4-1 victory over Bishop's Stortford, and Charterhouse the defending Venetianisches Gondelteid, Nachtlied, Hevenlied),
Vaughan Williams (Songs of Travel); Ravel (Don
Outchoffe a duicnee)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philhamonic under
Yan Pascal Torteller, Julian Lloyd Webber, cello.
Bridge (Sufe: The Sea); Elgar (Cello Concerto in Eminor); Rachmannov (Symphony No 2 in E-minor)
4.00 Music Pleatored Luce Skeaping introduces a
selection of 18th-century French chamber music
from the time of Louis XIV (r)
5.00 Im Tune Sean Rafferty introduces music including
Bech (Cello Sufe No 1 in G), played by Yo-Yo Ma
7.45 Performance on 3: Endless Parade (Sounding
the Century) Live from the Uister Hall, Beitast. champions, beat Downside by a similar score.

Meanwhile, just up the road at Royal St George's, Tonbridge, the beaten finalists last year, eased their way into the second round with a 4-1 win over Berkhamsted.

CLUB	Depth (cm) L U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort Off/Ap	Weather (5pm)	Last Snow
Andorra Socia: Austria Kichahei Soli France	55 70	Fan	Stuarty Varied		
Austria Kitabatek	0 140	Fax	Some Vaned Slushy Heavy	Seet 5	8/4
Soli France	15 120	Far	Stushy Heavy	Raum t	: 8/4
Aipe d Huse	148 330	Good	Open Powde	r Snow 6	8/4
Avonez	225.245	Good	Oper Powde	r Cabbo o	- 9/4 - 9/4
Faine La Cisar	115 635	Good	Open Roade	Cloud 0	8/4
La Tarra	100 235	Fax	Sushir Heavy	Cloud 3	7/4
Necessary	85 314 80 200	Fan Fox	Stustry Heavy	Fig. 2 Shet 1	7/4
Mercel Toner	50 240	Fair	Susby Varied	Cloud 2	7/4
Vol Thouses	100 250	Good,	Open Varied	Cloud	8/4
Soli France Alpe di Huse Alpendine Alpendine Flaine La Cusaz La Tama Les Ares Megues Mercel Tignes Val Troiene Val di Isere Madi	90 210	GDOQ.	Sustry Valued	Cloud	8/4
Cervina Control	80 210	Good:	Shelly Powde	Cloud: 4	7/4
Italy Oserna Cortina Switzerland	53 215	Good	Stisty Meany Stisty Vaned	Cloud - 2	714
Switzerland	20 260	Es.	D. shi . Usmai		-9/4
Davis .	115 300	Good	Swish Heavy	Stow 5	8/4
Grademaid Gradem	5 290 30 300	Good	Stustry Hoavy	Smith 3	8/4- R/4
Marks Company	80 580	Fair	Susiny Vanie	Sacre 0	8/4
St North	50 100	Fair.	Stustry Varied Corsen Varied	Careed 2	., 27/3
Verbler Vilare	48 360	Coop	Stustly Powde	n Show 55	8/4
Viengen	40 160	Fair	Stusty Hosely	Snow 1	8.4
Switzerland Charle Montana Charle Montana Genderweid Konstan Murren Saas Fee St Monta, Verbier Verbier Viewgen Zerman United States	35 2/0	GOOd	Open Powde	r Snow 5	84
Aspen. Deer Valley	140 153	Good	Open Varied	Cloud	5/4



Comedy's hit parade

Laughter in the House BBC1, 9.30pm

The final part of this Julie Walters-narrated series brings us through the years from The Young Ones to Birds of a Feather, Men Behaving Badly, One Foot in the Grave and Absolutely Fabulous, via Yes, Minister and Only Fools and Horses. I found the comment and analysis from writers and performers better than in previous episodes, with the background on Yes, Minister, and Men. performers better man in previous episodes, with the background on Yes, Minister and Men. Behaving Baddy particularly enlightening. The clips used are tantalising, especially when Del. Boy's evening at the wine bar ends before the famous pratfall through the open bar-flap, but at least we do get almost all of that sequence from One Foot in the Grave in which a blandfolded Mr. Meldrew sleeps with a bewildered old woman. thinking she is his wife.

Frasier: Three Valentines Channel 4, 10pm . .

As with Wednesday's Christmas special of ER, we As with Wednesday's Christmas special of ER, we find ourselves out of step with America, tonight's trio of entirely self-contained sketches rather belatedly marking Valentine's Day. No apologies are necessary, however, for it includes possibly the funniest piece of (almost) wordless comedy this side of Chaplin. Niles Crane (David Hyde Pierce) is using Frasier's apartment (complete with resident dog Eddie, a fascinated onlooker) to entertain the female president of the wine society to dinner—and things don't go quite according to plan—

Walden On Villains: Hitler

Feedback

Brian Walden's series on heroes caused a stir when brian wanter's series on neroes caused as a when he questioned Nelson Mandela's right to that status, but this new run is far less likely to cause controversy, at least in terms of the subjects included. A 30-minute piece, delivered straight to camera without Autocue or pauses for sigs of water, unillustrated apart from a final still image of Hitler, this should by rights be impossible



The classic Only Fools and Horses features

viewing. That it isn't, although Walden's verbal ities, and idiosyncratic pronunciation are problematic, is tribute both to the enduring fuscination of Hitler's rise to power and to the insight Walden brings to bear upon it. He sees Hitler's as the first truly modern politician. Hitler as the first truly modern politician, a demagogue who gained the support of the people by offering them the chance to escape the boring reality of party politics, offering them a vision of community and spiritual awakening, if only they would trust him to make their dreams come true.

Beware: Shoplifters at Work

Sound Stories: Cathedrals

Radio 3, 11am

ITV 9pm

Not quite a docusoap, more the first in a new series devoted to various crimes and those who make their living from them. There are interviews with shoplifiers, including one who was barred by court order from two of the country's largest retailers, with security staff and store detectives. Closed-circuit television film from around the world reveals some of the truly ingenious and some downright ludicrous ways in which these thieves attempt to shop without paying; we also see retailers and shoplifiers coming face to face at a decision fair.

Sound Stories is not much longer for this world but

while it lasts I (and a good many listeners) will remain unfashionably loyal. I suspect that I like the series because I learn things that I did not know before, whereas of course your typical Radio

3 listener is above admitting that there might be anything to be learnt by listening to the radio. Oh well. Today the subject is York Cathedral, which was struck by lightning a couple of years ago. There was also a fire at the cathedral in 1829, but I had not considered the struck by the control of the struck of the struck

had not realised until today's programme that it

disfiled its tone. Today's music includes Haydn's The Creation and Elijah by Mendelssohn.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Insight 8.36 Focus On Faith 9.00 World News 9.05 Westway

Insight 8.36 Focus On Fatth 9.00 World News 9.05 Westway 9.20 Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping 9.35 Science in Action 19.00 World News 10.05 Speaking Of Engish 10.20 The Viritage Chart Show 10.50 Sports Round-Up 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Bittern Today 11.45 World Business Report 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30 pans Focus on Faith, 1.00 World News 1.05 Cutlook 1.45 Sports Round-Up 2.60 Newshour 3.00 World News 3.05 Science in Action 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.05 Foctball Extra 4.15 Coffee - A Helish Brew 4.30 John Peel 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Insight 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Short Story 6.45 Sports Round-Up 7.00 World News 7.15 Britain Today 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.00 World News 8.05 Science in Action 8.30 The Way-We Are 8.45 Off the Shalf: News Of A Kidnapping 9.00 Newsdesh: 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.20 Britain Today 10.30 Music Review 11.00 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 13.30 John Peel 12.00 World News 12

started when a man set fire to the organ because h

Radio 4, 1.30pm At last, the return of the programme that gives the listeners a chance to let off steam. Much like Prime Minister's Question Time, Feedback returns once Minister's Question Time, Feedback returns once a week and twice as long, but with all due respect to the highly-regarded Roger Botton, I remain at a loss to explain why Chris Dunkley is no longer the presenter. If it is true that Dunkley was insufficiently malleable one can only hope that Botton will prove equally hard to please, but the difficulty here is that whereas Dunkley was television critic of the Financial Times, Bolton actually works for the BBC — as head of Network Production in Manchester. Still, the proof is in the eating. New features include a slot where listeners will be able to interview broadcasters.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

8.30am Zoe Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Raddille 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood:

RADIO 2 (BBC)

8.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Michael Aspel 7.00 The Michael Feinstein Songbook — Turns Another Page (4/8) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 John le Carre's Single and Single (7/8) 9.30 Listen to the 8and 10.00 The Rodgers and Hammerstein Story. New series 10.30 Sheridan Mortey 12.00 Mo Dutte 4.00am Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

12.00 The Midday News 1,00pm len Payne. Commentary on the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45 races on day two of the Aintree Festival 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Edra, 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and guiests discuss the week's sporting issues end look shead to the Grand National at Aintee 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00em Up All Night.

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Motoring 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 OK to Talk 4.00 Chclest India v. England & JoO Nobey Home's Access all Areas 10.00 James H Reeve 1.00am Mike Dickin

TALK RADIO

6.30am Breaklast Show Team 9.20 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamel Scott 7.00 Wheels of Seel 11:00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am James Mamit

Souza presarris a recital given at last year's Bath Festival. Christopher Maltman, bantone, Malcolm Martineau piano, Mendelssohn (Schlafloser

Augen Leuchte: Keine von der Erde schonen, Venetianisches Gondelfeid, Nachtlied; Heisenlied).

1.30 Science in Action 1.55 My Century 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Meridian Books 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Round-up 4.30 Weekend. CLASSIC FM 6.00am Michael Mappin's Easier Breaklast. Music to get the day off to a fine start 9.00 Henry Kelly. The Hell of Fame Hour and Classic Masterpiece. 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Johes plays tavourite-music 2.00pm Concerto. Pasculii (Grand Concerto on Themes. Irom. Vergi's. I Vespri. Siciliant): Dupin

Æ,

Concerto on Themes, Irom. Verdifs. I Vespri-Siciliani): Dupin (Frantasia: on Arias, Irom. La. Travella): 2.00 "Jamie: Cnclc. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news 6.30. Newshight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world. 7.00. Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Ravel (Plano Concerto in G); Stravinsky (Petrushka): Beethoven (Symphony No 5). 11.00 Marin at Night 2.00aer Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark-Griffiths. The Early Breekfast Show

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny, Music Includes a

Ulster Orchestra under John Carewe. Britten (The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra), Holloway (Scenes from Schumarin) 8.30 Anglophiles: Foreign born artists and thinkers choose their favourite examples of British actievements in the postwar arts. Preserted by Philip Dodd 8.50 Concert, part two. Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 8) No 6) 9.35 Postscript: Cinema Apocalyptica (5/5) 18.00 Hear and Nour Passion and Resurrect

Jonathan Harvey's church opera — a searingly intense dramatisation of the events of Holy Week and Easter, in which the words of medieval

and Easter, in which the words of nedeval and Easter, in which the words of medieval monastic plays are forged into a music drama in which both performers and audience play their part. Stuart Machingre, bartione, Andrew.

MacKenzie-Wicks, tenor, BBC Singers, Sinforna 21 under Mertin Neary.

11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52-part Instory of jazz (f).

12.00 Through the Night 12.05 Sibelius (Kylklo 12.20 Saint-Saens (My Heart) 12.30 Haas (Suite) 12.40 Gigout (Foccata) 12.45 Sauguet (Nett coloniale sur les bords) 1.00 Cest (Opera: Orontea) 4.10 Beethoven (Violin Soneta, Op. 30 No. 1) 4.35 Strauss (Buffeske) 5.00 Rossint (Overture, La cenerentola) 5.15 De Rue (Pour une jameis).

5.25 Bach (Suite in Diminor; BWW997) 5.30 Lassus (Musica Dei donum) 5.45 Messisaen (Oserum convivium) 5.55 A Sibelius song

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural reports 5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural reports
6.00 Today Introduced by John Humphays
9.00 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is
the champion jockey Fichard Outwoody (f)
9.45 (FM) Seriat: Just William — The 90th
Analysersery-Matin Lards reads The Cure. the
last of line stories by Richmel Crompton
9.45 (LM) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour Shela MicClerinon talks to Rose
Ellici about vegetarian recipes for grifs and
barbecues includes part five of Diary of a
Provincial Lady, by EM Detailed
11.00 Living Dolf Alan Doin celabrates Barbie's 40th
birthday, traveling to Californa to meet the
creators of the toy company Mattel and the
daughter that inspired them
11.30 Married Cornecty drama by Tony Bagley. Robin
warms to tile adopted "wife" but his new-found
peace is not to last. Starring Hugh Bornevitle,
Jose Lawrence and Barbara Murray (4/6).
12.00 (LW) News Headtimes; Shipping Forecast

Josie Lastence and Berbera Munay (4/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headtimes; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News Headtimes; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer
ssues and public service reports, presented by
Liz Barclay and Mark Whintaker
1.00 The World at One with James Co.
1.30 Feedback New series Roger Botton presents
Isteners' views of BBC radio. See Choice
2.00 The Archers Yestenday's edition (f)
2.15 Afternoon Payer J. Edgar Hoover — They Caft
Han Bobby by Mika Walker The third of four
plays about the legendary anti-communist FBI
Director is set during the volatile gra of Kennady's
Administration. Staming William Hootkins and John
Sharian

Making History Sue Cook gets to the bottom of historical mysteries

3.30 What's Yours is Mine Rory Cellan-Jones investigates the role money plays in relationships. Last in series (4/4) (r)
3.45 This Seephred tisk Part 70 of the history of Britain, narrated by Arna Messey (r)
4.00 Bookslub James Naughtje meets Joseph Heller, the author of Catch 22 (r)
4.30 The Messeson Alex Brocks and his county steepers

the author of Catch 22 (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.09 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair
6.00 Stc O'Clock News
6.30 The News Cutz Topical cuz with the Times columnist Alan Corea and Andy Hamilton, hosted by Simon Hoggart
7.00 The Archers

7.00 The Archere
7.15 Front Row Arts review, with Mark Lawson
7.45 Disny of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delefield's
household journel, starring irrelda Staurtion and
Richard Hope. Broadcast earlier as part of
Worms's Frour-tri

State for Scotland, and Michael Forsyth discuss the latest topical issues at Tribridge Grammar School for Girls in Kent, Nick Clarke presides.

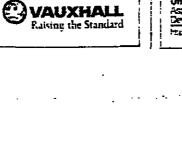
2.45 Letter from America by Alistar Cooke.

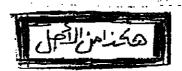
3.40 The Friday Play. Do the Needful by Mahesh Datani. Two lamilies mean to arrange a marrage, but a clash of outlaines the election is the negotiations Staming Paul Bhottecharjee and Indira Varma (r).

10.40 The World Toelgink with Scotii Lustin 10.45 Book at Bedtimes Archangel Asia Howard reads part live of Robert Hams's bestselling finder.

11.00 Late Night on 44 Later Tackle Eleanor Octooyd logues to the forthcoming Grand National 12.00 News 12.30sm The Late Books Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads part live of Philippa Gregory's novel. King Charles begins his reign 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-902. RADIO 3. FM 902-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE: MW 646; LW 196 (12.45-5-55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 190-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1216. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089, Television and radio (latings compiled by Parry Cleveland-Pack, Limit Highes, Giffan Moosy, Jane Gregory and





Journey into light with a one-time enemy

REVIEW

Paul

Hoggart

here is no getting around it. his life. If Simon's Journey (BBCi) livid orange, under dense black smoke, while inside. Weston's pretty. It is not just the fact of the disfigurement, but the nature of it - flesh seared into grotesque shapes, like molten wax. exposed. eyelids unnaturally stretched or hooded. ears missing. The sight cuts through us, screaming "raw pain" at those fortunate enough to see a normal healthy image in the

hathroom mirror. Repair work helps, but not much. The worst ravages are disguised, but the results can take on a Frankenstein quality. Such faces are the stuff of cheap horror movies. "That must be terrible to live with," we mutter, with a chill, In fact it is our reaction, not the disfigurement itself, that is the problem. After a long dark night of the soul. Britain's most famous burns victim, Simon Weston, decided he had better just carry on regardless gy has worked a treat.

Last night we saw him parachuting and running a marathon in New York for his charity, the Weston Spirit. He has a cheerful, sporty wife, Lucy - who says she wouldn't have fancied the man he was before he was injured - children and a house that looks like a showroom. His life, he says, "is very rich and very happy now".

Given the potent cocktail of nationalistic emotions stirred by the Falklands war, it is ironic that this victim of military misjudgment has become the conflict's only lasting icon. I doubt that any other participant has been the subject of so many documentaries. No images brought the war home more rudely than the foot-

age from Bluff Cove: that Welsh Guardsman on a stretcher, shreds of flesh hanging from the stump of his leg: the Sir Galahad burning

hands were burning as he vainly tried to save three of his mates.

The profile intercut that footage with Weston's life now and clips from earlier stages of his long road to recovery, moaning for painkillers in Woolwich Military Hospital and giving his mother hell as he struggled with depression.

ost fascinating was the growing relationship with Carlos Cachon, the Argentine Skyhawk pilot who bombed the ship. Befriending this thoughtful, modest man seems to have done more than anything else to complete Weston's redemption in this "human interest story" par excellence. And by the end of the programme, I had ceased to notice his injuries. What a contrast to Mary Chip-perfield, recently convicted on 12 counts of cruelty to a chimpanzee

that Secrets Of The Circus (Channel 4) was a rare example of a documentary team taking the trouble and risk involved in some genuine investigative journalism. Except that the undercover filming was all done by a West London-based pressure group called Animal Defenders. In the age of the fake and the docusoap, it seems, you might as well do it yourself.

named Trudi. You might think

The group infiltrated five of its you want. Really to hurt it, howev-field officers into nine of er, you should smash it on the jaw. Britain's 17 animal circuses and three sets of winter quarters. Only one of the establishments they targeted did not treat its animals cruelly. They used concealed body cameras and static cameras to collect evidence, so we saw everything in glorious fuzzorama.

Mary Chipperfield's way of "bonding" with Trudi the chimp, for instance, was to shout at her, as if she were some obstinately disobedient child, then give her a good kicking. These are wild creatures who have no natural need to bond with people, according to animal behaviourist Sam Scott, so she sus-pected it all has to be done by fear.

Well guessed. I assumed it would be rather difficult for anything as small and puny as a human being to intimidate an elephant. Wrong. If you whack its backside hard enough with a hooked iron bar, it will do what

er, you should smash it on the jaw. "I caught him nice," boasted circus worker Steven Gills, after doing just this to a victim called Tembo. Gills also swears a lot and, even though the animals don't speak English, I expect they get the gist.

fter an elephant, a camel is A a doddle. A few good cracks with a big stick and the most recalcitrant Bactrian will do your bidding. Even a lion can be persuaded to move cages if you bash it in the mouth with a tent pole. Just don't get in there with it.

The violence was only the more lurid part of this story. Inadequate veterinary care, cages so cramped the animals became neurotic. elephants tethered or shackled for 23 hours at a stretch, tigers left in waterlogged enclosures in winter, the casual cruelty was breathtaking and all in the name of fun. One outfit had a lioness injured

by a tiger and not properly treated. When an RSPCA inspector called they hid her behind some bales of sawdust. He missed her, but we didn't. Animal Defenders' efforts have brought a few successful prosecutions, but animal circuses are barely regulated and it is the law that needs to change.

Over on BBC2 it was vampires who were having a hard time, with the return of Buffy The Vampire-Slayer for a second series. Buffy takes the Mary Chipperfield approach to these poor misunderstood creatures, kicking them quite literally to bits and smashing their skeletons with a

This is Karate Kid meets Hammer horror, meets high school dating movie, complete with American teen slang. The cast have names like Charisma Carpenter and Robia La Morte. It was cool for a while but hey, I am

BBC1 6.00am Business Breakfast (19441) 7.00 Breakfast News (T) (55170) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (9190002)

and get as much as he could out of

9.45 Style Challenge (r) (8834422) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (7) (9241165) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (9142199) 11.00 Change That (9129248) 11,25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9122335) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (4342098)

12.25pm Wipeout (7685070) 12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76029267) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (66557) 1,30 Regional News; Weather (58199712) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (16357809)

12.00 Going for a Song (6130985)

2.05 Ironside (r) (1245267) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2204422) 3.25 Children's BBC: Smart on the Road (6930354) 3.40 Help! It's the Hair Bear Burch (7143606) 4.00 Rugrats (5925354) 4.15 Get Your Own Back (7415847) 4.35 The Mask (7639151) 5.00 Newsround (5678248) 5.10 Blue Peter (2439847)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (466538) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (644) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (996) 7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson More from the consumer investigation show (T) (6731)

7.30 Top of the Pops Jamie Theakston introduces New Radicals, Manah Carey, Phats and Small, Another Level, Catatonia, Reef and Emmern (T) (880)

TO THE SECOND



Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and Tommy Walsh (8pm)

8.00 Ground Force The team return to the Milton Keynes garden of Stuart Higham, to check up on his plot 18 months after they built a gazebo which was not entirely to his fiking. Last in series (T) (2151) 8.30 The Builders Tony Kealing and his gang

down tools for a good time in sunny

Tenerile (T) (1286) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9422)

9.30 CHOICE Laughter in the House: The Story of the British Sitcom Sitcoms from the 1980s and 1990s (3/3) 10.20 Golf: The US Masters More

second-round action from the Augusta National as the last groups reach the back nine (2556793). 11.30 Kidnapped (1992) Premiere. An FBI agent is baffled by a cunning serial kidnapper whose knowledge of law

enforcement techniques keeps him one step ahead of the police Directed by Bobby Roth (T) (86809) 1.00am Plan of Attack (1992) Rape victim Loni Anderson is terrorised by her vengeful attacker following his release m jaul. With Anthony John Denison.

Directed by Fred Walton (T) (4557855) 2.25 Weather (5776923) 2.30 BBC News 24 (9970010)

BBC2 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5508064) 7.10 The Silver Brumby (9062118) 7.35 Top Cat (8149248) 8.00 The Bots Mester (5462460) 8.25 Buried Treasure (8111460) 8.40 The Really Wild Show (9387847) 9.08 Rewind (3321793) 9.10

(938/84/) 9.08 Hewind (3321793) 9.10 Goober and the Ghost Chasers (7188248) 9.35 Student Bodies (8836880) 10.00 Teletubbies (42118) 10.30 FILM: Tarka the Otter (64809) 12.00 Wildlife Showcase (24151) 12.30pm Working Lunch (59335) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (38331489) 1.10 The Leisure Hour (8/20) (r) (1933793) 2.10 Racing from Aintree The 2.35 Murran Melling Chase, 3.10 Murran Mildmay Novice Chase, 3.45 John Hughes Handicap Chase and 4.20 Belle Epoque Sefton Novice Hurdle (83807460)

4.55 Esther (T) (9416083) 5.30 Whose House? (373)

6.00 The Simpsons The family are burgled, but fortunately Grandpa knows the identity of the thief (r) (T) (403335) 6.20 The Simpsons Bart lands a job as assistant to his idol Krusty the Clown, and even gets to say a line in front of the cameras (r) (T) (407151)

6.45 Electric Circus The former EastEnders actress Martine McCutcheon talks about her new single (T) (589489) 7.00 The Night Before the National Preview

of tomorrow's Grand National (T) (4373) 7.30 Walden on Villains New series. Brian Walden reevaluates history's miscreants, beginning with Adolf Hitler (T) (422)

8.00 As the Crow Files Janet Street-Porter walks from Nidderdale to south Leeds, meeting Vic Reeves along the way, as she continues her trek (1) (3903) 8.30 Gardeners' World Gay Search

introduces a guide to choosing flowers and foliage (8/30) (T) (9828) 9.00 Gott: The US Masters Steve Rider presents live second-round coverage from the pine-lined fairways of the Augusta National in Georgia (8793)

10.28 Video Nation Shorts (i) (584335)



Historical drama starring Nick Notte

11.15 Jefferson in Paris (1995) Premier Nick Notte stars as the future President of the USA in a chronicle of his time as American Ambassador to France. With Gwyneth Paltrow and Greta Scaochi. rected by James Ivory (T) (69760335) 1.30am The Spiral Staircase (1945) A psychopath begins a reign of terror in turn-of-the-century New England, murdering girls suffering from a slight

handicap. Classic thriller, starring Dorothy McGuire. Directed by Robert Slodmak (T) (7638300) 2.50 Weather (1144359) 2.55 Close

3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision: French 2 (27958) 5.00 Close

5.30am ITV Morning News (55731)

6.00 GMTV (2033712) 9.25 CITV: Tiny Toons (7103557) 9.50 The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbacl the Sellor (7129538) 19.15 Bugs Bunny (7474151) 10.25 ITV News Headlines (1) (2219354) 10.30 Funny Farm (1988) Cornedy, starring
Chevy Chase as a New York sports writer
who moves to the country. Directed by
George Roy Hill (1) (49393151)

12.15pm HTV News (T) (7256335) 12.30 TTV Lunchtime News (T) (2887489) 12.55 WEST: Getaways (r) (T) (1946267)

12.55 WALES: Stepping the World Richard Hall explores Mexico City (r) (1946267) 1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16346793) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (5204151) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2200606)

3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5901002) 3.15 HTV News (T) (5900373) 3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (5998538) 3.30 Timbuctoo (4274731) 3.35 Animal Stories (4273002) 3.40 Giggly Bitzl (7161002) 4.00 Pump It Up (335) 4.30 Mystic Knights of Tir Na Nog (847)

5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (8335) 5.30 WEST: Sportsweek (199) 5.30 WALES: Quiz Challenge (T) (199) 5.58 HTV Weather (400426) 6.00 HTV News (1) (712) 6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (661422) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (444)



Leanne (Jane Danson) is admitted

7.30 Coronation Street Leanne books into the clinic (T) (248) 8.00 Parking Wars The stress involved finding parking spaces (3/6) (1) (7847) 8.30 Motorway Life Police finally catch up with a trucker who has been driving an

abnomally large load (T) (6354) 9.00 CHOICE Beware: Shoplifters at Work New series. Crooks reveal tricks and scams (T) (6064)

10.00 Tarrant on TV The wacky world of global evision (r) (29606) 10.30 Pleasure Island A couple of Manchester

lads arrive in Jamaica looking for a holiday fling (4/6) (T) (38354) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (126118) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (734286) 11.35 Wonderful You Clare has a change of heart over Marshall (5/7) (r) (T) (306422)

12.35am WEST: ITV at the Belfort Festival Highlights (r) (6631381) 12.35am WALES: We Can Work It Out Consumer reports (2345861) 1.05 WALES: Public Morals (r) (1516958)

1.35 Club@vision Dance scene (6766132) 2.15 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (67720) 2.45 Short Story Cinema (r) (1245923) 3.25 Trisha (r) (T) (2370316) 4.25 Soundtrax (r) (72887294) 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25159768) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (1) (17768)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central (9474064)

12.55 Lie Detector (2855880) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4036996) 2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here? (89009267) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5900373) 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (199)

6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (282737) 11.30 Late Tackie (93538) 12.30am FILM: With Hostile Intent (259942)

2.15 Club@vision (7063855) 3.00 Box Office America (82984497) 3.25 The Haunted Fishtank (82069132) 3.50 Central Jobfinder '99 (6501381) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9638478)

A STOWNER'S A SE

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry (7256335) (9482083) 12.27-12,30 12.55-1.25 (295589) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4036996) 2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (T) (89009267) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (5900373) 4.59-5.00 Birthday People (6643686) 5.30 Westcountry Weekend (T) (199) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (712) 11 20-11 30 Live; Weather (T) (712) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (282737) 11.30-1.35 FILM: The Couch Trip (89164977)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (7256335) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (1946267) 5.30 Streetwise (199) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (T) (712) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (714373) 11.20-11.35 Meridian News; Weather (T) (734286) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (17768) ANGLIA

HTV West excent: 12.14nm Ar Watch (9494828) 12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (7256335) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (1946267) 5.30-6.00 Off the Beaten Track (10/10) (T) (199) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (1) (712) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (602248) 11.20-11.35 Anglia News and Weather (T)

S4C

Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (r) (28169083) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (69036847) 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (1) (92349538) 9.05 Saved By the Bell (1) (92196354) 9.30 Sam and I (93497489) 10.00 Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension (1) (83258557) 10.30 CatDog (1) 10.45 Boy Meets World (78076719) 11.15 Moesha (1) (85721642) 11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (99303977) 12.00 Dawson's Creek (T) (93470712) 1.00pm Planed Plant (T) (69006606) 1.30 The ooges (r) (1) (98760199) 1.50 FILM: The Big Trees (T) (95338557) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (99412460) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (99408267) 4.30 Ricki Lake (T) (99497151) 5.00 Planed Plant (41879064) 5.30 Countdown (T) (99411731) 6.00 Ne wyddion 6 (T) (49945151) 6.10 Heno (T) (65151373) 6.50 Pobol y Cwm (T) (84301248) 7.20 Y Cwb Rygbi (T) (23884538) 9.15 Newyddion (T) (94013462) 9.45 Remsay's Boiling Point (4/5) (T) (96463903) (T) (81224083) 11.20 So Graham Norton (T) (87823151) 12.00 TFI Friday (43665923) 1.05am 4 Later; Pulp (81301942) 1.25 Flava (89535720) 1.50 The Mod Squad (18757300) 2.50 Vids (r) (93491687) 3.20 FiLM: Howling VI: The Freaks (T) (30558565) 5.15 Diwedd

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5139151) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (48880) 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3357118) 9.05 Saved By the Bell (r) (7181335)

9.30 Sam and Max (r) (73915) 10.00 Earle, Indiana: The Other Dimension 10.30 CatDog (3124064)

10.45 Boy Meets World (576083) 11.15 Moesha (r) (573996) 11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (2473712) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (59847) 12.30pm Bewitched (T) (77731)

1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (T) (58267) 1.30 The Three Stooges (1) (16344335)
1.55 Our Man in Marrakesh (1966) A group of European travellers in Morocco accidentally get mixed up in espionage. Starring Tory Randall and Herbert Lom. Directed by Don Sharp (7) (21792002)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (170) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (977) 4.30 Countdown (T) (7663118)

4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9401151) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (441) 6.00 TFI Friday With Gail Porter, Elvis Costello and Cerys from Catatonia. Plus, music by Ben Folds Five, Electronic and Suede (52422)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (951828) 7.50 Dovetales How the Good Friday peace agreement has affected the workload of lawyer Eugene Grant, QC. Last in senes (8/8) (T) (573248)

8.00 Trading Up Car-swapping game show (4/8) (1) (5489)

8.30 Brookside Lindsey comes face to face with her past (T) (4996) 9.00 Friends Rachel gets it together with her former fiancé (r) (T) (5460)



Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips star (9.30pm)

9.30 Smack the Pony Offbeat sketch show (3/7) (1) (64267)

CROICE Frasler Three stories (T) (27248) 10.30 So Graham Norton Irrever with the camp funovmen (432151)

11.05 King of the Hill (r) (1) (217064) 11.40 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (889915) 12.50am 4 Later Introduction; Pulp (2930403) 1.05 Flava The black music scene (3714039) 1.40 The Mod Squad (3896687) 2.40 Vids Officeat video review (r) (5861045)

3.10 Howling VI: The Freaks (1991) Wandering werewolf Brendan Hughes is taken in by evil carrival owner Bruce Martyn Payne, a bloodthirsty varmpire.
Offbeat horror, with Antonio Fargas.
Directed by Hope Perello (T) (488229) 4.50 Strays Offbeat drama about a former

prostitute whose past comes to light. With Rinnan Hendersen (r) (42410687) 5.15 Animal Hester Schofield's low-budget film about a worman searching for Mr

CHANNEL 5.2

6.00am 5 News and Sport (5994373) 7.00 WideWorld Part six. The life and work of Isaac Newton (r) (T) (2851489)

7.30 Milkshake! (2649847) 7.35 Dappledown Farm (r) (4063460) 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8843793) 8.30 Witchworld: 5 News Update (8842064)

9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (8866644) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (6863441) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4256915) 11.10 Leeza (r) (3911880)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8846880) 12.30pm Family Affairs Gabby receives a hefty credit-card bill (r) (F); 5 News Update (7532539)

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful James urges Taylor to talk (1) (2843460) 1.30 The Roseanne Show (2487480) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2154977) 2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5

News Update (8747847) 3.30 My First Love (TVM 1988) Bea Arthur stars in this romantic cornedy as a driving instructor who rekindles a romance with her high school sweetheart. Directed by Gilbert Cates (2914335)

5.20 5 News (59271489) 5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (59263460) 5.30 100 Per Cent (6141644)

6.00 5 News and Sport; Weather Roo of the day's stories (T) (6148557) 6.30 Family Affairs Maggie returns Benji's gift (T); 5 News Update (6139809) 7.00 Knight Rider (r) (2158793)

7.30 Animal Marvels Profile of the cockroach (T); 5 News Update (6128793)

8.00 Was It Good for You? A fireman and his fiancée embark on a tour of Lanzarote nightclubs, while a unwerstry vice-principal and his partner investigate the country from a more cultural standpoint (12/14) (2167441) 8.30 Nick's Quest Nick Baker discovers how

elephants in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park are evolving. Last in senes (8/8) (T): 5 News Update (2153248) 9.00 Between Love and Hate (1993) Drama

work as a swimming instructor at an exclusive country club while on vacation, and becomes besolted with the wealthy mother of one of his pubils. Susan Lucci Rod Hardy (1) (49291915)

10.50 Lexic The Dark Zone Stories Stan and the gang arrive on Brunnis (r) (3804248) 11.50 Electra (TVM 1995) Tongue-in-cheek horror about a deranged woman who resolves to be impregnated by her superhuman stepson. With Shannon Tweed. Julian Grant directs (7124002)

1.30am The Homecoming (1973) Adaptation abon of Harold Pinter's play, starring Michael Jayston as a man who takes his wife to meet his long-lost father and brothers. With lan Holm, Directed by Peter Hall (99161756) 3.35 Rag Doll (1962) Krichen-sink drama

about a teenage out who heads for the bright lights of Soho Jess Conrad and Christina Grego star. Directed by Lance Comfort (40422566)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H The explosion leaves Ann in shock (4045671) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6865923)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision 7.00em Count Duckula (40806) 7.30 Garriny (87793) 8.00 Earthwarm Jrn (72712) 8.30 Godzila (71083) 9.00 Pokemon (62335) 9.30 The Simpsons (21557) 10.00 Shadow Reiders (60538) 10.30 Xena Warner Princess (66373) 11.30 Length of the Missian Countries (9379) 19.00

Tarzan. The Epic Adventures (29118) 1.00pm Mad About You (90147) 1.30 Jeopardy (71034) 2.08 Sally Jessy Raphael (7731) 5.00 Star Tiek, Voyager (1064) 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (5996) 6.30 Frends (6248) 7.00 The Simpsons (2793) 7.30 The Simpsons (2793) 7.30 The Simpsons (8460) 8.00 The Simpsons (1441) 8.30 The Simpsons (7249) 9.00 World's Scanasi Police Sings (4441) 10.00 Cops (83828) 10.30 Cops (69249) 11.00 Friends (14712) 11.30 Star Trek. Voyager (60809) 12.30am Law and Order (54316) 1.30 Long Play (4621381)

SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie chi XY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) The Devil's Advocate (1997) The Rainmeker (1998) Sky 90 - OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)

Sphere (1997) Skir BCX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) SKY PREMIER

8.00am Clubhouse Detectives (1996) 20354: 8.00 Warriors of Virtue (1997) 183-25, 10.00 Family Plan (1997) (2151) 12.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982) (66712) 2.00pm Clubhouse Detectives (1995) (38422) 4.00 Werriors of Viruse (1997) 15(18, a.00 Kerriors of Viruse (1997) 14539, 6.00 Family Plan (1997) (56236) 8.00 Independence Day (1995) 37573538 10.20 Ghosts from the Past (1996) (22366647) 12.35cm The Garden of Redemption (1997) (248316) 2.15 Two Days in the Valley (1996) (291855) 4.00 The Last Supper (1996) (81958)

(65083) 11.00 The End of the Golden Weather (1991) (32977) 1.00 The Butterream Gang (1982) (76199) 3.00 Cab to Canada (1998) (8462) 5.00 The End of the Golden Weather (1991) End of the Golden Weather (1991) (8)1460; 7.00 P-Review (8)2441) 7.20 How to Get Ahead in Film Directors (480915) 8.00 UK Top 10 (3809) 8.30 Jee's Apartment (1996) (25783) 10.00 The Tie That Sinds (1995) (534354) 11.45 Scream (1996) (668712) 1.35cm The Cable Guy (1996) (591942) 3.10 Home Imasion (1997) (4411316) 4.40 Inside Out (1975) (75318316)

SKY CINEMA 4.00pm Our Relations (1935) (7456441) 8.00 Tarzan's New York Adventure (1942) (8001482) 8.00 Breezy (1973) (9556557) 10.00 A Guide for the Married Man (1967) (27737k3) 11.35 From the Terrace (1960) (14771625) 2.05am Compulsion (1950) (7305774) 3.50 Destination Gobi (1953) (35256126)

FILMFOUR 6.00pm Short Films (8596605) 8.00 Tin Men (1987) (8591151) 10.00 LA Men (1987) (8591151) 10.00 LA Takedown (TVM 1988) (8644915) 11.45 Thieves Like Us (1974) (7204373) 1.45am Even Cowglets Get the Blues 1.45am Even Coughts Get the Sizes (1993) (4911590) 3.20 The Ballad of Little lo (1993) (63153519) 8.00 Close

TNT 9.00pm WCW Nitro (65737557) 11.35 WCW Thunder (42564731) 1.30am Take the High Ground (1953) (82548564) 3.15 The Walking Stick (1970) (70357566) SKY SPORTS 1

7.00mm Sports Centre 7.15 Wrestling 8.15
You're On Sky Sports! 9.00 Racing News
9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Bosing Big Fight
Countdown 10.30 Futbol Mundel; 11.00
Footbell League Renew 12.00 Aerobics
12.30pm Bosing Big Fight Countdown
1.00 Spanish Footbell 3.00 The Rugby Club
4.00 Trans World Sport 5.00 Futbol Mundel;
5.30 Bosing Big Fight Countdown 6.00
Sports Centre 7.00 Live Super League 9.30
Bosing Big Fight Countdown 10.00 Sports
Centre 11.00 Hotel the Back Page 12.00
Souring Big Fight Countdown 12.00 Sports
Centre 11.00 Hotel the Back Page 12.00
Souring Big Fight Countdown 12.00 Sports Goong Big Fight Countdown 12.30em Premier League Preview 1.00 Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00em Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Sports Centre 7.49 Racing News 8.15 Motor Racing 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 The Reigby Cub 10.00 Motor Racing 10.30 Trans World Sport 11.30 What a Weekend 12.00 Live International Cricket 8,00pm Live Snooker 11.00 Moto-Plus 11.30 Extreme Saling 12.00 Finday Night Football 1.30am Hold the Back Page 2.30 Sports Centre 3.30 Moto-Plus 4.00 Super League 5.00

SKY SPORTS 3 10,00em Live Snooker 5.00 World Sport Special 5.30 Molo-Plus 6.00 Extreme Sailing 6.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour 7.00 Live Friday Night Football 10,00 World World Tours Reput 27 00 Class

EUROSPORT 7.30em Football 9.00 Football 19.30 Record Line 11.00 Live Cycling 12.00 Live Termis 4.00pm Live Cycling 5.30 Live Dwing 7.00 Footbal 9.00 Boung 10.00 Curling 12.00 Trial Bilong 12.30am Close UK GOLD

7.00em Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 East-Enders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 The House of Eliot 10.30 Phoda 11.00 Dallas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00 Dallas 2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 ods 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles 7.40 Last of the Summer Wire 8.20 Dad's Army 8.00 The Thin Blue Line 9.40 Specially Selected Cenned Carrott 10.40 Puby Wes Meets Intelda Marcos 11.40 The Bill 12.10am The Bill 12.40 Octor Who Omnibus War Machines 2.15 Best of the

stie Test 3.00 Shopping with

GRANADA PLUS 8.00em Wish Me Luck 7.00 How's Your Father? 7.30 The Odd Couple 8.00 Femilies 8.30 Mind Your Langauge 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdale Farm 10.00 Upstairs, Downstairs 11.00 Charle's Angels 12.00 Classic Coronal on Street 12.30pm Emmerdale Farm 1.00 Med Your Language 1.30 Ms and My Gen 2.00 Upstairs. Downslars 3.00 The Love



ikeet Ulrich, Jamie Kennedy and Matthew Lillard star in Wes Craven's comic horror movie Scream (Sky MovieMax, 11.45pm)

8.00 The Berry Hil Show 9.00 The Sweeney 10.00 Hale and Pace 10.30 The Cornecians 11.00 Men and Motors **CARLTON SELECT**

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridlock 6.00 My Two Wives 6.30 Our House 7.00 Share on Harvey Moon 8.00 Blue Heeers 9.00 Frank Stubbs Promotes 10.00 The Good Sex Guide 10.30 The Screen 11.00 DISNEY CHANNEL

8.00am Gummi Beers 8.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Auddin 7.35 101 Dalmaters 8.00 Goot

7:009 8.25 Classic Toons 8.30 Timon and Purchas 9.00 Ari Atlack 9.35 Doug 10.00 Recess 10.15 Pepper Ann 10.30 Ned's New: 11.00 Smarl Guy 11.30 Teen Angel

Pooh 3.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Dalmetians 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Arm 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Maels World 7.00 FILM: Ataddin and the King of Thieres (1995) 8.20 Honey Shrunk the Kids The TV Show 8.0 Dinosaurs 10.00 Home Improvement 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched by An Angel 11.50 Classic Toons 12.60 Class FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00em Masked Rider 6.30 Beetleborgs Metallix 6.55 Power Rangers Turbo 7.20 Power Rangers Turbo 7.20 Power Rangers Turbo 7.45 Sher Suffer 8.10 Monal Kombat 8.35 Mowels The New Adventures of Jungle Book 9.00 Gooseburngs 9.25 Eere, Indiana. The Other Direction 9.50 Onns and the other Dimension 9.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 10.00 Goosebumps 10.25 Mag Jack the Pirale 10.40 The Socret Files of the Spy Dogs 10.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 11.00 Goosebumps 11.25 Dennis and Gnasher 11.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 12.00 Goosebumps

1.25 Fantastic Four 1.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 2.00 Goosebumps 2.25 X-Man 2.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 3.00 Goosebumps 3.30 X-Press 3.35 Spiderman 4.00 Goosebumps 4.25 Haro Turtiss: The Next Mutation 5.00 Denms and Grasher 5.30 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donkey Kong Country 6.30 EeleStravaganza 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.00 Close NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub 6.30 Brothers Flub

6.00am Brothers Flub 6.30 Biothers Flub 7.00 Asahhi Raal Monsters 7.30 Asahhi Raai Monsters 8.00 Catdog 8.30 Catdog 9.00 Rugrats 9.30 Rugrats 10.08 The Wild Thomberrys 10.30 The Wild Thomberrys 11.00 Sabrina the Teenage Witch 11.30 Sabrina the Teenage Witch 12.00 Moesha 12.30 per Moesha 1.00 Rankord Rejects 1.38 Ranford Rejects 2.00 Hey Amoldi 2.30 Hey Amoldi 3.00 Rugrats 3.30 Rugrats 4.00. Rugrats 4.30 Sister Seter 5.00 Sabrina the Teenage Witch 7.00 Close BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law 9.00 Cops 9.30 The Late Lounge 10.00 Extreme Championship Wresting 10.30 Entitic Confessions 11.00 FELM: The Thomas Crown Affair (1969) 1.00am Erotic Confessions 1.30 The Lale Lounge 2.00 Martial Law 3.00 FILM: Shines: An Experiment in Fea (1988) 5.00 Extreme Champion Wrestling 5.30 Cops 8.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00mm Clueless 7.30 Caroline in the City

7.00pm Custess 7.30 Carones in the City 8.00 Med About You 8.30 Spin City 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? 10.00 Fil.Mr. Aliptane (1980) 11.30 Police Squad 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman 1.00em Genry Shanding's Show 1.30 Nurses 2.00 Atmost Peried 2.30 The cent Filer 9.00 Nurse and Micros 2.30 Tibs and Fibs 3.00 Mork and Mindy 3.30 Abboti and Costello 4.00 Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Signings 9.00 Battlestar Galactica 10.00 The Six Million Dollar Main 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 Dark Shadows 12.00 The Ray Bradbury Theatre 12.30pm The Twilight Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amezing Stones 2.30 Mystenes, Magic and

Bractoury Theatre 6.30 New Alfred Historicock 7.00 The Sv Million Dollar Man 8.00 Amazing Stones 8.30 Highlander. The Raven 9.30 The Hunger 10.00 FILM: Scanner Cop It: Volkin's Revenge (1995) 11.45 Sci-Focus Special 12.00 Fil.M: Heavy Metal (1981) 1.45em Sci-Focus Special 2.30 100 Years of Horror 3.00 Dark Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadow

HOME & LEISURE

6.00em Smply Painting 6.30 Instant Gardens 7.00 Potted History with Antony Henn 7.30 The Restoration Game 8.00 Australia's Swangest Home Improvements 8.30 The Ciose Guide 8.00 The Joy of Painting 9.30 Grow for 8 10.00 Instant gardens 10.30 Antiques Trail 11.00 Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young 11.25 The Home and Leigning House 11.30 Trail The Home and Lasure House 11.30 Total Fishing with Matt Hayes 12.00 These Four Walls 12.30pm Our House Down Under 1,00 The Furniture Guys 1.30 Home Savvy 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Via 3.00 This Old House with Sieve and Norm 3.30 Two's Country

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Her Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 The Diceman 5.00 Best of British 6.00 Widdle SOS 5.30 Untamed Amazonia 7.30 Flightine 8.00 Deadly Reptiles 9.00 Animal Wespons: Chemicsi Warfare 10.00 Animal cons. Armed to the Teeth 11.00 Anima Weapons Fatal Encounters 12.00 Sky Truckers 1.00am Flightine 1.30 The Diceman 2.00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollwood Salari 1.00pm Crocodile Hunter 1,30 Twicted Tales. Crocodie 2,00 Crocodie Hunter 2,30 Crocodie Hunter 3,00 Crocodie Hunter 3,30 Crocodia Hunter 4.00 Hunters. Dawn of the Dragons 5.00 River Dinesaur 6.00 Croco-die Hunter 6.30 Crocodile Hunter 7.00 Crocodie Hunter 7:30 Crocodie Hunter 8:00 Crocodie Hunter 9:00 Wid, Wild Rep-tiles 10:00 Crocodie Hunter 11:00 Croco-die Hunter 11:30 Wild Guide 12:00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7,000m Chami and Ana the Elephani, 7,30 braie inventors 9.30 The Eagle and the Snake 10.00 The Golden Dog 11.00 Liche<u>HISTORY</u>

4.00pm Secrets of War korea — Gehand the Bamboo Curtain 5.00 Monumental Statues 6.00 The Grand Inquestor A Witch-Hunt. in the Name of God 7.00 Playback: Ken Livingstone 7.30 Bomb to the Beatles: i, Witness — Teenagers **CARLTON FOOD**

9.00mm Food Network Daily 9.30 Coron's

Kitchen College 10.00 Tumer's Tour of Hong kong 10.30 Nancy Lam's Wok Wiz 11.00 Wonali Thompson Cooks 11.30 Idaal Home Cooks 12.00 Food Network Daily

12.30pm French Lunch 1.00 Coxon's Kinchen College 1.30 Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour 2.00 Cen'i Stand the Heat 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Food Factory 3.30 Ideal Home Cooks 4.00 A Year at Ballymaioe 4.30 Tessa's Tastebuds

8.00em Can't Cook, Won't Cook 6.30 Animal Rescue 7.00 Professor Bubble 7.25 Callou 7.30 Police Det Shorts 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Finends 8.25
Babaloos 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and
Crew 8.50 Prolical Parenting 9.00 Special
Babies 9.30 Home and Away 10.00 The
Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Powich
11.40 The Heat is On 12.10pm Through
the Keybola 12.40 Been 911 1.10 the Keyhole 12,40 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Bellel Fact or Fiction 1.40 Maury Povich 2.30 Special Babies 3.00 The Jerry Springer Show 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Home and Away 5.10 Through the Keyhola 5.40 Can't Cook, Won't Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35

8.10 Maury Povich 9.00 Fil.M: Kansas (1995) 11.00 Sedasyl 12.00 Close

5.30mm Guldasta 6.00 Sony Meri Lom 8.30 Masi Musi Show 7.00 Fauth 7.30 News 8.00 Music Mag 8.30 Tara 2 9.00 Adhikar 10.00 Yeh Zindag 11.00 Zaike Ka Saler 11.30 Shanah Cup 1999 AM India v Pakistan 3.00pm ir's My Choice 3.30 Shanah Cup 1999 AM India v Pakistan 7.30 Entertainment Emisses 8.00 News 8.30 Asshiwad 9.30 FILM: Hindi Movie: Lawrents 12.00 Novs 12.30em Ru-Ba-Ru 1.00 4-Zone 2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie:

Animal Rescue 8.00 Enjertainment Now

RACING 46, 47

Henderson putting his faith in nothing but the facts

SPORT

MOTOR RACING 47

Barrichello homing in on winning formula in Brazil



FRIDAY APRIL 9 1999

Confident Montgomerie makes encouraging start to 63rd Masters

Lyle puts troubles behind him with fluent 71

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a Valhalla in golf in the United States, a place where ghosts of the past suddenly come to life. It is known as Augusta. Georgia, where yesterday Sandy Lyle rediscov-ered the form that he has not known for years.

It was extraordinary to watch the way that Lyle, walking with that heavy-footed stride of his, a towel around his neck to ward off the heat and cope with the oppressive humidity, managed to get round in 71, one under par. and be up with the leaders. These days, indeed these

past few years, the game has been so troublesome for Lyle that there have been many occasions when one has wondered why he has continued. A resident of Jacksonville. Florida, he makes occasional forays to Europe, but wherever he goes he seems to be a slightly forlorn figure. Until yesterday, that is, because in his best opening round here since 1988. the year he won. Lyle looked at times as he did of old.

Around him the ghosts were flitting to and fro. John Daly was one of the early leaders before finishing with a 72 and Jose Maria Olazabal, the champion in 1994, proved how these famous green acres can bring back memories that can be inspirational. A 70 for him put him one behind the early leader. Brandel Chamblee. who was three under par, as



Early score

McCarron. Tiger Woods, the 1997 champion, however, took an eight at the par-five 8th hole and turned in 38, two over par.

Colin Montgomerie, Lyle's fellow Scot, whose public posture before the start of the 63rd Masters was one of bernusement mixed with depression. gave himself the sort of start he was desperate for making only one mistake and finishing, like Olazábal, with a 70.

Lyle's troubles seemed to have increased when, on Monday, word reached him and his wife, Jolande, that their nanny and two children had been involved in a car crash in Florida. Mercifully it was not too serious.

Lyle was plugged in a bun-ker on the 4th for the first of his two bogeys, but then sank a 12-foot putt for a birdie on the 5th and somehow coaxed in a curling 12-footer on the 7th. Although he missed the were Davis Love III and Scott green on the 9th, he played a



Montgomerie, who got the start that he wanted with a first-round 70, two under par, plays his approach to the 2nd green at Augusta yesterday

magnificent wedge from the fringe of the green to within an inch of the hole to turn in 35. After all this, he looked less like the forgotten man of Europe. But after a good outward nine he still had a fight on his hands.

The 12th, perhaps the most difficult short hole in golf. caught him out when his teeshot trickled through the green, but any bad luck he might have had on this hole was given back on the next. when his hall did not roll back down the bank into Rae's

It took a good putt of ten feet or so from the fringe of the green for him to get his par on the 16th and his chip from the back of the 17th popped into the hole and came out again. It was a Lyle the likes of which has not been seen for a long time who made his way up the 18th, where his drive ended near where it had in 1988. He then hit a magnificent fiveiron to a flag that was positioned on the back right-hand corner of the green. In a mood such as he was in he was

Montgomerie might have been even happier than Lyle, but you would not have known it from his demeanour at the end. It had been a round in which he had made only one mistake, when he took three putts on the 6th. It was, he said, exactly the start he had been looking for. "The man who wins this will be the one who makes the least mistakes, not the one who gets the most birdies," he said. "The course is only going to get tougher and tougher. I am a bit more confident than I've been in the past. The width of

the fairways and the new rough means more than they did before."

There is increasing evidence that he is coming to terms with a course that has beaten him in the past - or so he has thought. In fact, his eighthplace finish last year was not only his best here, but his best in any of the major championships in 1998, and his last two rounds of 69 and 70 were as well as he has managed at that

stage of the tournament. Such was Montgomerie's determination not to be carried away that he failed even to

to attract Zidane By Oliver Holt POOTBALL CORRESPONDENT MANCHESTER United have made the first move in an attempt to secure the services of the player who has driven them to the brink of elimination from the Euro-pean Cup by inquiring about the availability of Zinedine

Ferguson

hoping

Zidane. Zidane, the man who scored two goals for France against Brazil in the World Cup final last July and was voted the world's best player by Fifa earlier this year, orchestrated the masterly Juventus perform-ance that resulted in a 1-1 draw with United in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has expressed his admiration for the Frenchman many times and it is believed that members of the Old Traiford board met their Juventus counterparts before Wednesday's game to register their in-terest should the player become available.

It is likely that Zidane will leave the Italian champions at the end of the season, partly be-

United draw comfort....

ause of his disillusionme about the turn events in Turin have taken, partly because his wife has become bored of life

It is thought that Zidane. who was the best player on the pitch on Wednesday night despite the fact that his right knee was heavily strapped and he was clearly not fully fit, would cost United a fee somewhere in the region of £18

Undoubtedly, he would give them the guile and the pres-ence on the ball in the centre of midfield, the ability to dictate the pace of the match. that is the one quality United still conspicuously lack.

Ferguson has already joked about moving Old Trafford to the seaside to accommodate the wishes of Zidane's wife, who has expressed a preference for living in a coastal city. and the Frenchman may be more tempted by the lure of a club such as Barcelona.

The suspicion remains, though, that he is the type and the quality of player that United must attract if they are to take the final, elusive step towards being the best club side in Europe.

No 1687

23 L S --, industrial-scene artist

3 One playing unfairly (5)

5 Carbon specks (4)

6 GWR engineer (6)

8 Fit to be seen (11)

14 Subhuman (7)

15 (Flesh) not firm (6)

17 One dying for beliefs (6) 18 Young female horse (5)

4 Salty, knot-shaped biscuit (7)

13 Speak condescendingly (4,4)

l Imperfect (6)

2 Peaceful (8)

ACROSS

7 Stagger: (be left in) trouble (5) 8 Sitting-room (once) (7) 9 Aspirant (eg pop-singer, film-

star) (7) 10 Saturn moon; huge, important type (5) HA medicine (4)

12 Statue base (8) 15 (Voice) artificially high (8) 16 A fruit; desirable job (4) 19 Check of books (5)

21 Outstanding performance; Cornwall, for Gloucester (Lear) (7) 22 Serfdom (7)

20 Drift of sand (4) SOLUTION TO NO 1686

ACROSS: 1 Stammer 5 Shod 9 Admin 10 Boulder 11 Self-portrait 12 Basics 13 Broody 16 Living fossil 19 Involve 20 Ozone 21 Lido 22 Take/out DOWN: 1 Sway 2 Aimless 3 Munificently 4 Ribbon 6 Hydra 7 Dorothy 8 Culture shock 12 Balliol 14 Orinoco 15 Effect 17 Vivid 18 Seat

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Australia fightback masks burning issues

always likely to hole the ensu-

ing five footer, and so he did.

IT IS the way of cricket these days that West Indies and Australia barely have time to reflect on a Test series that had to be seen to be believed before embarking on an island-hopping excursion around the Caribbean crammed with seven one-day internationals.

As Steve Waugh, clutching the Frank Worreli trophy which he had just managed to hang on to in his first series as Australia's captain, said: "It's hard to put it all into perspective right now. There were so many times when we thought we were going to win a Test and then they thought they were going to win it. I am not really sure why it was so up and down."

Australia had West Indies on the floor in Trinidad, where they collapsed to their lowest Test score of 51, were staggered themselves by two monumental innings from Brian Lara, in Jamaica and Barbados, and then came back to outpoint their challengers emphatically in Antigua

It was the most compelling cricket, yet when it was all over, neither side was entirely satisfied. Australia, sustained by the steadfast Steve Waugh, felt that they could have won all four Tests; West Indies, inspired by Lara, believed the momentum he had generated would keep them ahead.

Both now have problems to address for the simple reason that the series was dominated by five great players - Lara, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh of West Indies, Steve Waugh and Glenn McGrath of Australia - and they cannot FROM PAT GIBSON IN ANTIGUA

continue producing such colossal performances indefinitely. On the one side, Lara scored 546 runs at an average of 90. the indomitable Walsh took 26 wickets and Ambrose 19; on the other. Steve Waugh made 409 runs at 58 and McGrath took 30 wickets.

Behind them, though, are some burning issues, particularly for Australia. Shane Warne has much to consider after being dropped for the final Test: Ian Healy seemed in decline until he roused himself with a brilliant diving catch and a lightning stumping in Antigua: Mark Waugh is beginning to look too laid back for his own good; Matthew Elliott failed as Mark Taylor's replacement as opener.

At least Steve Waugh seems to be coming to terms with the captaincy. At first, the sheer intensity appeared to affect his decision-making, but in the

Lara: growing into role

things right.

"I am the first to admit that I am going to have to learn as a captain," he said. "It was a bit much to expect me to pull all the right strings straight off, but I expect to improve in every game and I think Antigua was the best I've done."

As for Lara, he seems to be rowing up at last. He looked like a little boy lost when he was presiding over the sham-bolic 5-0 whitewash in South Africa, but he lifted not just his team but the entire region with the glory of his batting.

"It was a tremendous team effort," he said generously. "We always knew that it was going to be tough for us playing against the world champions in the last Test," he said, "and they proved to be better than us. but I am very optimistic about the future. As time goes on we are going to be a much better unit and a force to be reckoned with once more."

There are going to be signifi-cant changes in West Indies cricket as the president of the board, Pat Rousseau, who has been embarrassed by many of the decisions taken by the people around him, assembles a new structure.

The positions of Clive Lloyd, the team manager, and Mal-colm Marshall, the coachm. are among those under review, but one man is sure of his tenure. Lara, a perceived delinquent in need of corrective training when he was put on probation for the first two Tests, is now master of all he surveys from his home in the hills above the Caribbean.

England turn to Mather

By DAVID HANDS RIIGRY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will introduce two newcomers in their search for the grand slam against Wales at Wembley on Sunday, the final day of the Five Nations Championship. Barrie-Jon Mather will join Steve Hanley, his Sale colleague, after the withdrawal through injury yesterday of Jeremy Guscott, England's longest-serving player. At 6ft 6in and 16st 4lb, Math-

er. 26, must have a claim to be the biggest back to appear in an England jersey. He played in the second row for England Schools before moving to play rugby league for Wigan in 1991, winning England and Great Britain caps at wing or

With Will Greenwood, of ville, of Bath, long-term casualties. Mather understudied Guscott in training this week before the Bath player conceded that his strained hamstring would not allow him to make his sixtieth appearance for his

country.
Mather wins preference over Nick Beal, the Northampton utility back, who played at centre during the southernhemisphere tour last summer. Tony Underwood, the Newcastle wing, has been added to the replacements.

Mather will be the sixth Sale player to have been capped by Clive Woodward, the England coach, five of them backs.

Kosovo Emergency

had played on the 4th, when,

having driven over the back of

this tricky par-three, he some-

how got the ball close enough

to hole for a par. Steve Jones, a

playing partner, bowed in

mock admiration. A home-

ward nine of 33 on a day when

all competitors were finding

the capricious wind making

the course difficult was a score

to send even Montgomerie

happily in for a late lunch.

Hundreds of thousands of people, mainly women and children, need shelter, food and water.

Traumatised and exhausted, they are victims of a horrific human tracedy.

Action Against Hunger's teams are doing their utmost to bring relief to the refugees in Macedonia, Albania and

Several tons of food have already been distributed. More food is on the way with special food products for children, hygiene products and water and sanitation

The People of Kosovo need your help now.

_	£100 £50 Emy VISA/Mastercard/Delta/CAF	-
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Expiry data Signature	Today's date	Please tick if you would like a receipt
Address		

Action Against Hunger UK, 1 Cation Street, London WC1R 4A8

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